OBAMA VOWS TO DELIVER ON CHANGE, PG 14

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More privacy concerns for Facebook

NETWORK The federal privacy watchdog is looking into a new complaint about Facebook, the popular social networking site.

Privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart said yesterday the complaint focuses on a personal-settings tool introduced by Facebook last month.

The complainant, whose identity is confidential, alleges new default settings would have exposed his information to a greater degree than settings he had previously put in place.

Elizabeth Denham, the assistant privacy commissioner, said in a news release the grievance echoes other concerns expressed in recent months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

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- **Today — Lueders driving for gold, page 23**

On the web

Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Raptors Bosh torches Heat

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh, left, takes a shot over Miami Heat Jermaine O'Neal last night at the Air Canada Centre. Bosh led the Raptors with 24 points and 18 rebounds in a 111-103 win. More coverage, page 20. Link to exclusive Raptors game report, see top of page 20.

Street blitz

Cops crack down with tickets for T.O. jaywalkers

Fourteen pedestrian deaths in 15 days had Toronto abuzz yesterday, questioning why a region in which man and machine regularly interact is seeing such a dramatic spike in fatal collisions.

With January's death toll in the Greater Toronto Area reaching almost half of the 31 similar deaths recorded in all of 2009, Toronto police embarked on a blitz to educate, and ticket, pedestrians and drivers breaking the rules.

Politicians and safety officials, meanwhile, urged people to return civility to the roadways.

"We have laws. I think at a minimum we need to respect those laws," said Premier Dalton McGuinty, who added the existing laws are adequate to address the problem.

Reduced enforcement has seen the public develop a "scofflaw attitude" where people don't worry about being caught anymore, said Ontario Safety League president Brian Patterson.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

56

The Ontario Safety League applauded the police blitz, which saw police ticket 56 jaywalkers and pedestrians who disobeyed traffic signals by late morning. League president Brian Patterson called it a step in the right direction.

iPad offers best of mobile computing worlds

TECHNOLOGY Canadians should get a crack at Apple's new iPad by March, but some industry watchers warn that while the tablet computer is priced right, the ongoing cost of using it in Canada may be a major turnoff.

Apple CEO Steve Jobs ended months of speculation yesterday by unveiling the iPad, a mobile computing device billed as a cross between a laptop and a smartphone, offering the best of both worlds.

There will be six models available, ranging from $499 US to $829 US depending on storage capacity and whether they have Wi-Fi or 3G wireless connections. The Wi-Fi models will be available internationally in 60 days while the 3G models will be available in 90 days, Jobs said.

Some Canadian shoppers are leery about how much it will cost for a 3G data plan through a Canadian carrier, said Derek Szeto, founder of Redflagdeals.com.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

- Will you buy the iPad? Let us know at torontoletters@metronews.ca, on Twitter @metrotoronto, or comment online.

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SCANLIFE

Local metro

Grocer recalls doughnuts

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Metro Inc. are warning people with allergies to milk or egg not to consume Selection brand Iced Chocolatey Donuts. The affected product contains milk and egg, which are not declared on the label. Selection brand Iced Chocolatey Donuts are sold in 330-gram packages bearing UPC 0 59749 89300 8. All best before dates are being recalled. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in brief

TRAVEL Air Canada says seven more U.S. destinations will be added in the coming months to the network served by the airline and its affiliates. The Montreal-based company said it will begin its latest U.S. expansion by adding daily flights between Toronto and Orange County, Calif. starting April 6. Memphis, Cincinnati, Portland, Me. and Ore., Syracuse and San Diego will all be serviced in the expansion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tomorrow's Metro

Urban Compass

April Lindgren brings Metro readers the issues that are affecting Torontonians

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Stephen Harper arrives at Davos forum ready to push for worldwide banking reforms at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Hundreds turn out at Ottawa funeral for "face of international policing for RCMP," killed in Haiti quake at **metronews.ca/canada**

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What is 'jaywalking,' anyway?

Pedestrians can commit a variety of ticketable offences, say police

The term "jaywalking" is a nebulous thing, but most people define it as "crossing the street when you're not supposed to."

But when exactly are you "not supposed" to cross the road? It's obviously illegal to cross against a red or yellow light, but there are many other pedestrian offences that could also get you slapped with a fine, says Const. Scott Parrish, with Traffic Services.

For most people, the word "jaywalking" evokes visions of harried pedestrians, darting between moving vehicles as they zigzag across the street instead of taking a few extra steps to use a crosswalk. In such instances, you could be charged under the municipal bylaw for "failing to yield to vehicles when crossing roadway," resulting in a fine of $85 plus surcharge.

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PC Daniel Latincic issues a $50 ticket to pedestrian Mario Antonio after he crossed Bay Street at Front yesterday. Toronto officers were at the intersection educating pedestrians about their safety.

But what if you're taking a shortcut across a quiet residential street in the dead of night? Technically, this isn't illegal because you are not interfering with the flow of traffic, Parrish explains. However, if you happen to interrupt a car's oncoming path while doing so, that is punishable under municipal bylaw, he says.

Some people might also interpret jaywalking to mean disobeying traffic signals, which is punishable under the Ontario Highway Act.

Technically, it is illegal to step off the curb once the red hand starts flashing — even if the crosswalk timer is still counting down, says traffic services Supt. Earl Witty.

Each crosswalk is timed differently, but the red hand usually begins blinking somewhere between the 10th and seventh second, he says. Under the Highway Act, the fine for crossing against a flashing red is $35 plus a $15 victim surcharge, Parrish said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Family still grappling with tragedy

ACCIDENT Perhaps she had been running late for work, or maybe the bus she needed had pulled up at just the right time.

On Jan. 20, around 7 a.m., Leovina Tolentino stepped out of the house she shared with a cousin near Dufferin Street and Eglinton Avenue West, and crossed a four-lane street to get to the bus shelter.

She had almost reached the other side when in the darkness of the early morning Tolentino was struck down by a vehicle travelling southbound on Dufferin Street.

Tolentino became the GTA's 10th pedestrian fatality of the year.

A week later, family members and friends are still trying to piece together why Tolentino had decided to take a different route that day.

"I still don't understand what happened that day. She never crossed the street like that," said Lerma Refran, a cousin she lived with. "She never used that bus stop, she always went to the crosswalk and the other bus stop on this side of street."

Leovina Tolentino

The sudden death of a quiet and hard-working woman stunned the few friends and relatives she had kept in touch with since she came to Toronto from the Philippines in 2002. It also put an abrupt end to the only source of livelihood for Tolentino's family back home.

She arrived in Canada in 2002, on a visitor visa for World Youth Day, and shortly after went underground. After a devastating fire burned down her home in the Philippines and the family's business suffered, she believed Canada would be the best place to earn enough money to repay her debts.

Now Tolentino's family and friends are appealing to their community to help raise money to send her body home — at the request of her grieving family.

The cost for repatriation of the body is approximately $10,000. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Former cop jailed for sex crimes

SENTENCE For eight years, a former decorated Toronto police officer committed dozens of sexual acts against children and young teens, all of them friends of his young daughters.

Yesterday, Donald MacCallum paid a price for his crimes.

Justice Peter Wilkie sentenced the 53-year-old to a year in a provincial jail for sexual offences against 11 girls aged five to 15 between 1996 and 2004. He will service his sentence in protective custody. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Girl safe after Amber Alert issued

Police say a missing Toronto girl who was the focus of an Amber Alert is OK and with police. Police had issued an Amber Alert for Madison Young earlier yesterday, and urged her mother to contact them. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Recall may have silver lining

A massive recall and sales suspension of eight popular Toyota vehicles is proving to be a marketing nightmare for a company that prides itself on quality — but could also have a silver lining, experts say.

A recall of 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. and 270,000 in Canada escalated this week as the Japanese automaker said it would halt sales of vehicles containing a potentially faulty gas pedal, manufactured in Ontario, that could stick and cause unintended acceleration.

As a result of the sales suspension, production at Toyota's two Canadian manufacturing facilities, in the Woodstock and Cambridge, will be halted for the week of Feb. 1.

Toyota's products and those of its luxury brand, Lexus, have consistently ranked near the very top of industry-wide quality and vehicle dependability studies, said Darren Slind, country manager for Canada with consumer survey firm J.D. Power and Associates.

Toyota's impeccable reputation — embodied by the Japanese word "kaizen," meaning continuous improvement — doesn't have to be sullied by this recall, Slind said.

The fact that it took immediate responsibility for the problem and has proactively suspended sales of the affected vehicles to make sure they're safe could actually help the company in the longer term. THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Downtown Toyota, on Queen Street East, says it's staying open until midnight for three nights this week to address the demand for recall inspections from customers with affected brands.

Recalled cars

- Toyota has recalled eight vehicles to fix accelerator pedals that may stick — the 2009-10 RAV4, 2009-10 Corolla, 2009-10 Matrix, 2005-10 Avalon, 2007-10 Camry, 2010 Highlander, 2007-10 Tundra and 2008-10 Sequoia. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Industrial deaths prompt safety review by province

PANEL There will be a review into how to protect Ontario workers after a string of deaths on industrial sites across the province, the government said yesterday, although it stopped short of agreeing to a public inquiry into the accidents.

Peter Fonseca

"Our workplace safety system is one of the best in the world, but we're always striving to improve our system," said Labour Minister Peter Fonseca. "We've made some significant strides in the province over the last six years ... but we've all read and heard about fatalities in the workplace, and one fatality is one too many."

The province is setting up an advisory panel to improve its occupational health and safety system that will report back to the government by the fall.

It will be headed by Tony Dean, a University of Toronto professor and veteran civil servant, and include safety experts from labour groups, employers and academic institutions.

The move comes on the heels of several deaths, including that of a 69-year-old man in the Ottawa area and a 52-year-old near Schreiber, Ont. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

BAILOUT Premier Dalton McGuinty is dismissing opposition criticism about the value of Ontario's $4.3-billion bailout for General Motors and Chrysler — calling it a humane and financially responsible move. He says the investment was worthwhile and adds the opposition doesn't understand how important the bailout was to thousands of families who were able to keep their jobs. GM's announcement that it will pay back its bailout money by June won't shrink Ontario's $25-billion deficit, McGuinty said, since much of the loan went into equity. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Heaps on his own for legal bills

Toronto council has shelved its decision to cover legal expenses of Coun. Adrian Heaps, who was sued by an opponent in the 2006 election. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Council **Cutting the off-leash area?**

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cherlynn Lindsay leaves the off-leash area in High Park with her dogs Finnegan, left, and Quinlan. Toronto city council was expected to recommend cutting the leash-free area yesterday in High Park as part of its review of the People, Dogs and Parks Strategy.

Three dead after grisly night in GTA

Three people, including a 69-year-old man found stabbed in an east Toronto home, are dead after a grisly night in the GTA.

Emergency officials were called to a house on Victoria Park Avenue just north of Ellesmere Avenue East, shortly before 4:30 a.m. yesterday, where they found the 69-year-old victim with several stab wounds to the abdomen.

He was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Police have not released the victim's name.

"The investigation is still in its infancy," said Staff Sgt. Gary Tutchener, who confirmed that police have a person of interest in custody.

In York Region a 48-year-old woman was found dead Tuesday night in a Richmond Hill apartment. It's the region's first homicide of the year.

The victim was pronounced dead and a man was taken into custody at the scene.

Efim Klimovich is charged with second-degree murder.

Less than eight hours after the discovery of that body in Richmond Hill, York homicide officers were called to a Newmarket GO bus station, where a man's body was found.

A passerby had found the body in the parking lot and called police at about 4 a.m. yesterday.

The identity of the victim is unknown.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Murder

- The slaying of the 69-year-old man was Toronto's fourth homicide of 2010.

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Brick Works wins acclaim
The factory that churned out bricks to rebuild Toronto after the Great Fire of 1904 is now one of the world's top green tourist destinations. National Geographic Traveller has named Evergreen Brick Works a Top 10 destination for sustainable travel. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Counterfeit fare? New gadget plays gotcha

The TTC has begun testing a new fare box system expected to eliminate counterfeit Metropasses and tokens.

The new device has been mounted on only one bus so far. It runs on the 31 Greenwood route.

Riders swipe their pass or drop in a token and the new system alerts the driver to any counterfeiting issue.

Another pilot will begin on the Pape bus next month, followed by the 506 Carleton streetcar, said TTC spokesman Danny Nicholson.

The hope is to roll out the new system across the entire TTC by the end of 2011.

Meantime, transit officials will study the reliability, customer and operator experience of the new devices, and its impact on loading times for vehicles.

"We want to make sure we get everything right," said Nicholson.

The cost of about $5.3 million has already been budgeted. The TTC estimates it loses about $1 million annually to fraud. That's down from about $2 million last year, when it introduced a hologram feature on its passes. In 2006, the TTC launched new tokens to cut down on about $7 million annually in counterfeiting.

The new devices won't be compatible with the province's Presto smart fare card, which could only be introduced on the TTC by 2013 at the earliest. All other regional transit systems expect to be using Presto by the end of next year, about the time the TTC has its new fare monitoring system up and running.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Driver Ken Boodram on the Greenwood bus is trying out a new fare box that is equipped with a Metropass reader.

TTC boss Giambrone apologizes to riders

SERVICE Apologizing for "the missteps of the last couple of months," the TTC's top brass has announced a series of customer service improvements they promise will finally make transit the better way in Toronto.

"We owe our riders an apology for customer service that does not live up to their expectations," said TTC chair Adam Giambrone, who is expected to announce his bid to be mayor in the next few days.

Adam Giambrone

The mea culpa, along with promises of better communication and courtesy — including screening new hires for "customer service aptitude" and evaluating all 12,000 employees on their performance in that area — capped a disastrous two months for the TTC.

The last straw came last week, when photos of a sleeping fare collector hit the Internet and promptly went viral. That embarrassment followed a significant fare increase, a subway shutdown that stranded thousands at rush hour and token shortages that had commuters spending the run-up to the holidays in subway station queues.

Calling the past couple of months "a wake-up call," Giambrone said he expects "TTC staff will act quickly to restore the customers' confidence."

"We have to set very clear expectations of ourselves around customer service. The most important customer service we can do is changing the attitude across the organization," the city councillor for Davenport told reporters at city hall yesterday.

Gary Webster, the TTC's chief general manager, called the recent poor press a "crisis" and "feeding frenzy." But he acknowledged that customer service had languished while the TTC was coping with budget issues and service expansions. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Muskoka club to lose liquor licence for 45 days

PUNISHMENT A Muskoka club that served three young men who later died in a car crash in the summer of 2008 will have its liquor licence suspended this summer for 45 days.

In a decision issued yesterday by the Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario, The Lake Joseph Club, operated by the ClubLink Corporation, admitted to breaching a section of the Ontario Liquor Licence Act by selling liquor to intoxicated persons.

The club was charged after the July 2008 tragedy in which Tyler Mulcahy, 20, his girlfriend Nastasia Inez Elzinga, then 19, and friends Kourosh Totonchian, 19, and Cory Mintz, 20 spent part of an afternoon eating and drinking at the Water's Edge restaurant at the Lake Joseph Club in Port Carling.

They left that evening in Mulcahy's Audi, and he was driving when it crashed in the Joseph River. Only Elzinga survived after she managed to free herself and swim to shore.

The liquor licence suspension runs from 11 a.m. June 1 to 2 a.m. July 16.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

GALA Chabad Lubavitch of Markham's Sisterhood Women Of The World will be hosting a fashion show and gala March 21, featuring collections and designs exclusive to The Bay. WOW will donate a portion of the proceeds from this event to ASTEH (Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing), a community-based kosher facility for abused Jewish women and their children. Tickets are available from the Chabad of Markham office at $50 per person before Feb. 26, or for $65 at the door. Student and senior tickets are $36. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Cops cleared in death of homeless man in Calgary

A fatality inquiry judge has cleared police, transit security officers and paramedics of any wrongdoing in the death of a homeless man in a Calgary drunk tank. Woodrow James Threesuns was picked up after he was found sleeping at a light-rail transit station one night in June 2007. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Work-sharing extension considered

The federal government may be preparing to extend the popular work-sharing program introduced in last year's budget that has saved some workers from layoffs. Transport Minister John Baird, left, said yesterday he was not making an announcement, but said the program is seen as key to preserving jobs in the current economy. Employment in Canada remains 323,000 below the peak prior to the recession. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank like Canada: PM

Harper urges active regulations on financial systems

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is urging G20 countries to prevent future financial crises by copying Canada's moderate approach to controlling banks — even as his French counterpart asked for a complete overhaul of the capitalist system.

The Davos World Economic Forum, where Harper speaks today, is turning into a showdown between top bankers, who want lighter regulations to protect the fragile recovery, and others like French President Nicolas Sarkozy who want a major crackdown.

Harper gave a preview of his message yesterday after meeting with business leaders and Zimbabwe's prime minister in this ski-resort town.

As host of the next G20 summit in Toronto later this year, Harper is urging countries to set aside their differences and adopt Canada's system based on "good and active regulation, but not on excessive regulation."

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, right, answers questions as Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai listens yesterday after a bilateral meeting at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Canada's banking system held up well during the financial crisis that destroyed some of the world's largest financial institutions. Experts partly credit Canada's regulatory system, which discourages reckless lending and encourages banks to keep solid safety cushions, but does not micromanage investment practices or salaries.

"That's the approach that I'll be talking about tomorrow and I'll be encouraging among members of the G20," Harper said.

France's Sarkozy, on the other hand, opened the conference with a barn-burner of a speech, telling the G20 to stop tinkering with arcane regulations that will deal only superficially with the causes of the financial crisis.

Unless capitalism changes dramatically to take into account the well-being of people around the world, it won't work, the French president warned. He called for tougher rules for banks, caps on bankers' pay and a rethinking of how financial institutions operate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

No action on listeriosis findings, group says

HEALTH Six months after an investigation into the tragic listeriosis outbreak recommended a wholesale evaluation of the food-safety system, the government has yet to act, food inspectors and a consumers group said yesterday.

Option Consommateurs, the country's largest consumer organization, and the union representing the inspectors said the government still has to determine how many people it needs to ensure safe food and to figure out if a new inspection system actually works.

They said the government has yet to act on the key recommendations produced by a special investigation into the tainted-meat crisis.

The 2008 outbreak, traced to contaminated cold cuts from a Maple Leaf Foods plant, killed 22 people and sickened many more. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ScanLife

Since finishing Terry Fox's cross-Canada run, former Order of Canada recipient has led a troubled life. Scan this code for the story.

Feds to pay Colvin's legal fees

WHISTLEBLOWER The federal government has relented and will pay the legal fees of diplomat Richard Colvin, who blew the whistle on possible Afghan prisoner abuse.

Richard Colvin

An official with the Foreign Affairs Department said two invoices from Colvin's former lawyer — totalling $20,000 — have been paid and a third invoice submitted in December has been approved. The federal government has also set aside additional funds to a maximum of $50,000 to pay further legal expenses, said Joffre LeBlanc. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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For the latest information, visit us at pontiac.gm.ca, drop by your local Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. ♦$4,350/$1,850 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit for 2010 Pontiac (G5 SE/G3 5-door) reflected in offers in this advertisement. ♦♦$500 gold medal bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet Pontiac Buick GMC and Cadillac models excluding all Hummer, Saturn and Saab models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks.*Offer applies to the purchase of 2010 Pontiac (G5 SE Coupe or Sedan R7C/G3 5-door 1SA). ‡Financing on approved TD Bank credit only. 4.29% purchase financing for 84 months available on 2010 Pontiac (G5 SE Coupe or Sedan R7C/G3 5-door 1SA). Example: $10,000 at 4.29% for 84 months, the monthly payment is $138.03. Cost of borrowing is $1,594.52, total obligation is $11,594.52.Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Taxes are not included for bi-weekly payment. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $16,498/$12,888 with $0 down payment. ♦/♦♦/*/‡Freight ($1,350$1,350), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees are included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, administration fees and applicable taxes are not included. Offers apply as indicated to the purchase or finance of 2010 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Pontiac Buick GMC Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealer order or trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. ***At some dealers, the vehicles in this advertisement are only available with additional features of glass etching (up to $424), locking wheel nuts (up to $150), nitrogen in tires (up to $399), GM tire protection plan (up to $220), mud flaps (up to $120), box liner (up to $325), Walk Away Insurance (up to $389) and/or Drive Green Program ($199) which have additional costs. Δ2010 Pontiac G5 SE equipped with 4-speed automatic transmission. 2010 Pontiac G3 equipped with 5-speed manual transmission. Fuel efficiency ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's 2010 Fuel Consumption Guide. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ††Pontiac G5 SE Podium Edition, MSRP $19,925. ◊US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2010 Pontiac G3 received a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test. ▼▼To qualify for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must qualify for the Retire Your Ride Program, supported by the Government of Canada, and you must turn in a 1995 model or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon Government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", GM Canada will provide an incentive towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 GM vehicle, excluding Medium Duty trucks, in an amount ranging from $500 to $3,000, depending on the model purchased. Incentive applied after taxes. If you successfully complete the "Retire Your Ride" program, you will be eligible for a $300 cash incentive. By participating in this program you will not be eligible for any trade-in value for your vehicle. GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive is only available to customers who take delivery between January 12, 2010 and March 1, 2010. GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers offer may not be combined with certain other incentives available on GM vehicles, including the 60 Day Satisfaction Guarantee. See your participating GM dealer for additional program conditions and details. Residents of Northwest Territories, Yukon or Nunavut are excluded from the Government's Retire Your Ride program and are therefore ineligible for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive. Some conditions apply. Visit www.retireyourride.ca for more information.

N.S. Liberals call for restructuring of gas tax

Nova Scotia's Liberal leader is calling on the province to restructure the current gas tax formula. Stephen McNeil says drivers could save about three cents a litre or more if the HST is calculated before the provincial portion of the tax is added to the base price of gas. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cancel Haitian debt: MP

Flaherty urges bilateral creditors to follow Canada's lead

Haiti Crisis

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty urged Haiti's international creditors yesterday to cancel the country's debts following the Jan. 12 earthquake that killed 200,000 people, including 21 Canadians.

Canada cancelled all its Haitian debt last fall, Flaherty noted, and all Canadian contributions to the country's earthquake relief — more than $100 million — is in grants, not loans.

In Haiti

- Canadians dead: 21
- Canadians missing: 146
- Canadians located: 1,939

"Haiti's future must be focused on the priorities of its people, not on the liabilities of its past," Flaherty told the government's daily briefing on Canada's earthquake-relief efforts.

Flaherty called on Haiti's remaining bilateral creditors — Taiwan and Venezuela, specifically — to follow Canada's lead and complete their own debt-relief efforts as soon as possible.

International financial institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank's International Development Association cancelled $973 million US in Haitian loans last summer.

"Our collective goal should be to ensure that Haitians not be required to make substantial debt repayments while reconstructing their nation," Flaherty said, adding he'd explore Haitian relief strategies at the G7 finance ministers' meeting in Iqaluit next week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

From right: Minister of National Defence Peter MacKay, Minister of State of Foreign Affairs (Americas) Peter Kent, Minister of Finance Jim Flaherty and Minister of International Co-operation Beverly J. Oda provide an update on the situation in Haiti at a press conference in Ottawa yesterday.

Response to Haiti wins Tories no jump in popularity: Poll

POLITICS Canada's swift response to the tragedy in Haiti hasn't boosted the federal government's popularity among voters, a new poll suggests.

Voters apparently remain unhappy about Prime Minister Stephen Harper's unpopular decision to prorogue Parliament and aren't swayed by the popular effort to help Haiti, said pollster Allan Gregg.

The latest Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests the Conservatives and Liberals are in a statistical dead heat, with 32 per cent supporting the Tories and 31 per cent for the Liberals.

The gap is well within the poll's margin of error.

32% The Conservatives have 32 per cent of voter support, while the Liberals have 31 per cent, according to a new poll.

"We're back into too-close-to-call territory," said Gregg.

The NDP were at 15 per cent, while the Bloc and the Green party each had 10 per cent.

Gregg said prorogation remains a dead weight for the Tories and works against the kind of popularity boost they might have looked for after a speedy and high-profile response to the earthquake. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CLIMATE A prominent Canadian scientist says it's time for governments to look into a global "sun block" to fight climate change. David Keith of the University of Calgary says spraying tiny particles in the atmosphere to block the sun's rays could be an effective and cheap way to cool the planet.

OBAMA As U.S. President Barack Obama struggles to reconnect with recession-weary Americans, a new poll suggests his popularity is unrelenting in Canada. The survey suggests if Obama was Liberal leader, 48 per cent of Canadians would vote for the party.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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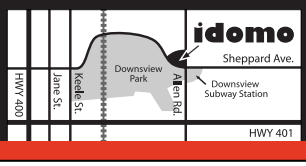

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Parents get reprieve for second opinion

The parents of a brain-damaged infant in Edmonton are getting more time to line up medical specialists who can review the boy's condition. A judge has put over the case of baby Isaiah May until Feb. 19 when the court will decide how to proceed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympic security team ready for gold

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

The federal public servant in charge of the nearly $1-billion effort to protect the Winter Olympics next month says his team is ready.

Ward Elcock says elaborate exercises have helped straighten out kinks and the 15,000-strong force comprised of the military, police agencies, emergency-response organizations and private security have learned to work seamlessly together.

But in an interview with The Canadian Press, Elcock warned no amount of preparation can anticipate every potential disruption to the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"We've resolved all the problems that have occurred in the various exercises," Elcock said from Ottawa.

"Have we dealt with every possible scenario that man or God could define or suggest? That's kind of a human impossibility. But we've prepared as effectively as anybody could possibly have prepared for the Games."

Elcock, a former director of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, was appointed to manage the Olympic security operation — budgeted at $900 million — in the fall of 2007.

It's geared primarily to prevent a terrorist attack at Games sports and entertainment venues. But it's ready to help local police if expected political protests get out of hand.

Academics who have studied the connection between terrorism and the Olympics say recent Games have done a good job of hardening venues against terror attacks.

"The whole part of this type of exercise is you're really trying to come up with infinite possibilities of what could happen," said Mike Zekulin, a University of Calgary political scientist.

Zekulin, whose article on the terrorism risk at Vancouver was published last fall in the Journal of Military and Strategic Studies, said he does not expect a large-scale, sophisticated attack against the main venues. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada

Fraud victims will go to Games

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

OFFER A New York couple scammed out of thousands of dollars in a rental fraud in Whistler will get to see their son compete at the upcoming Olympic Games.

Lois Mesler confirmed her family has accepted an offer of accommodation at a Whistler home — one of several offers made after the Mesler's plight became known.

A large contingent of the Mesler clan planned to travel to Whistler to see U.S. bobsled team member Steve Mesler go for gold.

Staff Sgt. Steve LeClair says a fraud investigation has been launched but no arrests have been made. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

911 Cellphone users will get improved 911 service, starting Monday, that should more accurately locate where they are. But the head of the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Service says the service won't be like what's seen on TV because it won't able to pinpoint locations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.gm.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet Dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. †No purchase necessary. Contest runs from January 12, 2010 at 9:00:00 a.m. [PST] to February 27, 2010 at 11:59:59 p.m. [PST] (the "Contest Period"). Residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence and who possess a valid driver's license at the time of entry may enter this contest. Limit of one (1) entry per person. There are seventeen (17) Grand Prizes available to be won during the Contest Period, each consisting of the winner's choice of either a 2010 Chevrolet Equinox FWD LS (Approximate retail value: $27,345 CAD) ora 2010 GMC Terrain FWD SLE (Approximate retail value: $28,815 CAD). One Grand Prize awarded per day for seventeen (17) days. Odds of winning depend on total number of entries received at the time of each daily draw. Correct answer to an arithmetical skill-testing question and completion of a declaration and release form required in order to be declared a winner. Full contest rules available at http://www.gm.ca. ♠Available at all Chevrolet, Buick, GMC dealers. No purchase necessary. While quantities last. ♦$2,000/$4,200/$6,500 is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit for 2010 Chevrolet (Malibu/Traverse/Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab) reflected in offers in this advertisement. ♦♦$500 gold medal bonus cash is a manufacturer to dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2009/2010 Chevrolet, Pontiac Buick GMC and Cadillac models excluding all Hummer, Saturn and Saab models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. *Offer applies to the purchase of 2010 Chevrolet (Malibu LS R7A/Traverse LS R7A/Silverado Ext. Cab 4WD R7A). ♦/♦♦/*Freight ($1,350/$1,350/$1,350), registration, air and tire levies and OMVIC fees are included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, administration fees and applicable taxes are not included. Offers apply as indicated to the purchase or finance of 2010 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealer order (2010 models only) or trade may be required. Dealers are free to set individual prices. Limited time offer which may not be combined with other offers. See your dealer for conditions and details. ***At some dealers, the vehicles in this advertisement are only available with additional features of glass etching (up to $424), locking wheel nuts (up to $150), nitrogen in tires (up to $399), GM tire protection plan (up to $220), mud flaps (up to $120), box liner (up to $325), Walk Away Insurance (up to $389) and/or Drive Green Program ($199) which have additional costs. ††Chevrolet Malibu LTZ, MSRP $32,255. ◊US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2010 Chevrolet Malibu and 2010 Chevrolet Traverse received both a 5-star rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test and for front and rear seat occupants in the Side-impact Crash Test. Side-impact Crash Test rating is for a model tested with standard head-curtain side-impact air bags. Δ2010 ratings based on GM Testing in accordance with approved Transport Canada test methods. Comparisons based on 2010 Energuide submissions/competitive websites. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. Excludes other GM models. ©The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications, LLC, used under license. ¥OnStar® services require vehicle electrical system (including battery); wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. Subscription Service Agreement required. Call 1-888-4ONSTAR (1-888-466-7827) or visit onstar.ca for OnStar's Terms and Conditions, Privacy Statement and details and system limitations. ∇Chevrolet is a brand of General Motors of Canada, the Official Vehicle Partner of the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. TM© 2009, VANOC. ▼Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes demos, fleet, lease vehicles and medium duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. ▼▼To qualify for GM Canada's Cash For Clunkers incentive, you must qualify for the Retire Your Ride Program, supported by the Government of Canada, and you must turn in a 1995 model or older vehicle that is in running condition and has been registered and insured for the last 6 months (12 months in B.C.). Upon Government confirmation of vehicle eligibility under the "Retire Your Ride Program", GM Canada will provide an incentive towards the purchase or lease of a new 2009 or 2010 GM vehicle, excluding Medium Duty trucks, in an amount ranging from $500 to $3,000, depending on the model purchased. Incentive applied after taxes. If you successfully complete the "Retire Your Ride" program, you will be eligible for a $300 cash incentive. 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Chicago terror suspect pleads not guilty

David Coleman Headley, accused of helping scout out Mumbai before the 2008 terrorist attacks that left 166 people dead and plotting to attack a Danish newspaper, pleaded not guilty yesterday to charges that could result in a death sentence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Jewelry store worker killed in robbery

A jewelry store employee was shot to death yesterday in a brazen midday robbery on New York City's posh Upper East Side. NYPD say two people were working at R.S. Durant on Madison Avenue when the gunman entered. He fired a semiautomatic pistol at 71-year-old Henry Menahem before fleeing the store with an undetermined amount of merchandise. Menahem was hospitalized with a chest wound and later pronounced dead.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Embattled Obama pledges more jobs

An embattled U.S. President Barack Obama vowed in his first State of the Union address last night to make job growth his topmost priority as he looked to reignite his stalling presidency.

"Change has not come fast enough."
U.S. President Barack Obama during last night's State of the Union speech

Speaking before a politician-packed House of Representatives chamber and a television audience of millions, Obama urged lawmakers to come together around new stimulus spending and short-term economic relief.

Defiant despite stinging setbacks, he said he would not abandon ambitious plans for longer-term fixes to health care, energy, education and more.

"Change has not come fast enough," Obama said.

He compared the United States to other nations: "Washington has been telling us to wait for decades, even as the problems have grown worse. Meanwhile, China's not waiting to revamp its economy. Germany's not waiting. India's not waiting."

Obama looked to use the high-profile speech to change America's conversation from how his presidency is troubled — over the messy health-care debate, a limping economy and the missteps that led to Christmas Day's barely averted terrorist attack — to how he is seizing the reins on the economic worries foremost on Americans' minds.

He spoke to a nation gloomy over double-digit unemployment and federal deficits soaring to a record $1.4 trillion, and to fellow Democrats dispirited about the fallen standing of a president they hoped would carry them through this fall's mid-term congressional elections.

The president devoted about two-thirds of his speech to the economy, emphasizing his ideas for restoring job growth, taming budget deficits and changing a polarized Washington "where every day is election day." These concerns are at the roots of voter emotions that drove supporters to Obama but now are turning on him as he governs.

"Do not walk away from reform," he implored. "Not now. Not when we are so close."

Declaring that "I know the anxieties" of Americans struggling to pay the bills while big banks get bailouts and bonuses, Obama prodded Congress to enact a second stimulus package "without delay."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

A family friend reports John Edwards and his wife Elizabeth have separated in the aftermath of a sex scandal. Scan this code for the story.

GREGORY BULL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jean Louis Moint waits for his parents yesterday near the remains of his destroyed home.

Haiti's haves and have-nots

Haiti Crisis

PORT-AU-PRINCE While their neighbours riot over food and sleep in feces-encrusted public squares, Haiti's most fortunate can still score some of the world's finest champagnes in an air-conditioned, glistening, fully stocked supermarket.

This tale of two cities is by no means new. In fact, the yawning gap between rich and poor is a centuries-old fact of life in Haiti, where fortress-like mansions tower over the capital of a country where the per-capita GDP is just more than $4 a day.

The disparities have become increasingly clear as Port-au-Prince's surviving businesses lurch back into action, offering far beyond the reach of the country's 80 per cent who live below the poverty line and the estimated million people who became homeless Jan. 12.

That's why there's a uniformed security guard holding a shotgun in front of the supermarket. Why employees inside refuse to be photographed, for fear their less fortunate neighbours might stumble upon a secret: That they have easy access to rows and rows of every conceivable type of grocery.

The man who runs the Big Star supermarket worked hard to get it running again, six days after the quake. Importing goods was nearly impossible.

Today, the place is abuzz with the sound of modern cash registers churning out bills and, if they're low on cash, shoppers can always pay by credit card.

Erwin Berthold says his business is actually doing better than it was before the quake. Many other stores didn't survive it.

His shop offers up a wine selection that would rival that of many Canadian liquor boards. The long fridge at the butcher's counter holds a mouth-watering array of cold-cut meats that could hold its own against a Loblaws.

Big Star is just a few blocks away from a public square that now reeks of human waste.

Among its new residents is Dejoux Missiona, a middle-aged woman who used to travel long distances to buy charcoal and sell it in the capital for people to cook with.

Now she's consumed with other immediate needs: Finding her next place to eat, shower, and go to the washroom.

"When I had a business I used to eat three times a day. Now I eat when I find food," she said.

She expressed gratitude for the foreign aid but had a special request for outsiders: Please distribute the aid yourselves, and bypass the Haitian authorities.

"If it's the Haitian government doing the distributing, we won't get it. It will go to their cronies."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

WHALING Scientists from Australia and New Zealand are to set out on a whale research expedition to the Antarctic Monday in an effort to disprove Japan's argument that whales must be killed to be studied. The results of the six-week expedition are central to the whaling debate because Japan is allowed to kill whales provided it is for research.

HONDURAS The Central American nation ended months of political turmoil as it swore in a new president yesterday, turning the page on a thwarted quest by ousted leader Manuel Zelaya to be restored to power after a coup that drew international condemnation. Conservative Porfirio Lobo said the first thing he would do was escort Zelaya from his refuge at the Brazilian Embassy to the airport, where the deposed leader planned to board a flight to the Dominican Republic and start a new life in exile.

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Al-Qaida claims hotel bombings
An al-Qaida front group in Iraq claimed yesterday it carried out the deadly bombings against Baghdad hotels earlier this week. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sri Lanka president wins second term

Rival said he feared arrest as troops circled hotel

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa won a resounding re-election victory yesterday, beating back a challenge from his former army chief, who rejected the official results.

Challenger Sarath Fonseka said he feared arrest as troops surrounded his hotel for hours before he finally went home and the troops withdrew.

The capital was tense before the troops pulled back, even as people hit the streets in celebration, setting off fireworks, waving Sri Lankan flags and holding up posters of Rajapaksa. Policemen at intersections smiled and waved at the revelers.

The election commission declared Rajapaksa the winner with 57.8 per cent of the vote to Sarath Fonseka's 40 per cent. The president now must rebuild the country after last year's successful offensive to destroy the Tamil Tiger separatists after 25 years of conflict.

Fonseka remains popular with the troops he led to victory against the Tamil Tigers, and the government is worried that he might claim electoral fraud and then try to rally his former soldiers, said Jenan Perera, a political analyst. The race between two men considered war heroes by the Sinhalese majority was acrimonious from the start. A bitter falling out pushed Fonseka to quit, join the opposition and challenge the president.

Fonseka was hoping for strong support from ethnic Tamils, who bore the brunt of the government's final offensive against the rebels, but turnout among the minority was dismal.

Rajapaksa's powerful political machine — and his alleged use of state resources, especially state media in his campaign - apparently overwhelmed Fonseka's bid.

The opposition accused Rajapaksa of plotting to rig the vote and steal the election.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RAFIQ MAQBOOL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters wave to Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa as he walks out of the election office after the announcement of his re-election in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

News in brief

NIGERIA Chilling text messages urged both Christians and Muslims to commit violence during rioting that left more than 300 people dead, a human rights organization said yesterday, with one message reading: "Slaughter them before they slaughter you. Kill them before they kill you." Shehu Sani, president of the Civil Rights Congress in Nigeria, said his group has collected about 150 text messages that were sent before and during the violence in Jos.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Irish, Brit leaders meet

POLITICS The prime ministers of Britain and Ireland presented a compromise plan yesterday to keep Northern Ireland's fractious politicians from breaking up their Catholic-Protestant government, but neither side accepted the deal.

Gordon Brown of Britain and Brian Cowen of Ireland ended their three-day diplomatic mission claiming to have dramatically narrowed the divisions between the Irish Catholics of Sinn Fein and the British Protestants of the Democratic Unionist Party. Yet Sinn Fein remained poised to withdraw from the power-sharing coalition and bring it crashing down.

Both leaders held out hope the rivals could keep talking and fine-tune proposals over the next two days. "We believe that we have produced a pathway to an agreement," Brown said.

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Man accused of scamming millions of frequent flyer miles

German police say a 26-year-old Dutch man who arrived at Frankfurt airport on a flight from Turkey Tuesday is under investigation for allegedly scamming airlines out of more than 5.6 million frequent flyer miles worth at least $190,000 US by using falsified boarding cards. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World powers pledge to back Yemen

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the world cannot ignore the poverty and instability that is fuelling extremism in Yemen — radicalism that officials say played a role in the attempted plane bombing over Detroit.

Clinton said yesterday Yemen's fragile government needs urgent help to address crippling internal conflicts and the growing terrorist threat.

She was attending a meeting in London with officials from Yemen and about 20 other countries, including Canada, that was hurriedly convened to respond to increased activity by al-Qaida in that country.

Clinton and delegates from the Middle East, Russia and Europe planned to discuss fears that declining oil revenues are weakening Yemen's ability to deliver basic services — stirring dissent and allowing terrorists a firmer foothold in the country.

Delegates, which include the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. won't pledge new funding, but instead will form a new organization to help Yemen spend $5 billion donated in 2006 — most of which remains untouched.

Britain and the U.S. are demanding political reforms to ensure that aid is used to address poverty, food and water shortages, and mass illiteracy.

The talks also focused on providing support for Yemen to seek a ceasefire with Shiite rebels — known as the Hawthis — whose bloody revolt in the country's north is diverting resources from the fight against al-Qaida.

Officials said nations at yesterday's meeting will launch a new international organization, the Friends of Yemen, to help the country identify aid priorities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. agencies lend a hand

- A Yemeni official said U.S. military and intelligence agencies have been participating in joint operations with Yemeni troops, and the two countries are discussing a new aviation unit to help bolster Yemen's counterterrorism forces.

I Need An Angel

I was recently diagnosed with a very rare cancer that affects only 1 in 300,000 people. And I don't have very many options available to me. In fact, I only have one…I need to undergo a liver transplant within the next 2-3 months.

Under the Canadian Medical Transplant guidelines, most cancer patients may have to wait up to 2 years. Sadly, I would not be able to sustain that long. However, if I can provide the surgeons with a "live" donor, I can undergo the transplant sooner than later. And this is what myself and my family live in hope of.

Essentially, a "live" donor is a willing candidate that would donate a portion, or lobe, of their liver. Although this is a serious procedure, the outcome for the donor is that they would typically recover within 3-4 weeks and their liver will regenerate or grow back to its normal size in as little as 6 weeks after the operation. As a result, I would be given a second lease on life.

I am hoping that a healthy adult between the ages of 18-60 with O type blood is going to volunteer for this life-saving surgery.

It's against the law for me to offer anyone money for this procedure. So, I ask at the mercy of all, that there's an angel out there with a heart of gold.

Serious candidates can get more information at the following email address:

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Desecrated **Jewish cemetery**

CHRISTIAN LUTZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An unidentified member of the Jewish community looks at desecrated graves yesterday in the main Jewish cemetery of Strasbourg, France. Police and Jewish officials say some gravestones were marked with swastikas and overturned. The desecration came as Jews marked the 65th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp, a symbol of the Holocaust.

Testimony ends in historic U.S. same-sex marriage trial

PROPOSITION 8 The founder of a U.S. family values think-tank testified yesterday that the rights of same-sex couples should come second to preserving the cherished social institution of marriage as a trial challenging same-sex marriage bans was winding down.

David Blankenhorn, president of the New York-based Institute for American Values, said under cross-examination there are many valid reasons for allowing gays to wed, but the considerations are outweighed by the likely damage it would cause the already weakened state of heterosexual unions.

Testimony ended yesterday in the historic federal case challenging the constitutionality of California's ban on same-sex marriage. The trial included nearly 12 days of wide-ranging testimony on the meaning of marriage, the nature of sexual orientation and the role of religion in shaping attitudes about both.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The arguments

- Lawyers for the two gay couples that filed the lawsuit tried to show the U.S. Supreme Court recognized marriage as a fundamental right and denying gay people the right to wed causes them harm. They also argued that extending marriage to same-sex couples would not undermine heterosexual unions.
- The defence countered that limiting marriage to a man and a woman serves a paramount social function that outweighs civil rights concerns.

News in brief

DAVOS TALKS Afghan President Hamid Karzai's top election rival said the Afghan leader will be attending the meeting in Davos, Switzerland, with "half legitimacy" and no program. Abdullah Abdullah, who dropped out of a presidential run-off saying it would be a repetition of the fraud-marred election, said he doesn't think the gathering of 60 foreign ministers and senior Afghan officials will bring much needed change to the country. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment

Fawning and Facebook

Relating

Sofi Papamarko

metronews.ca/papamarko

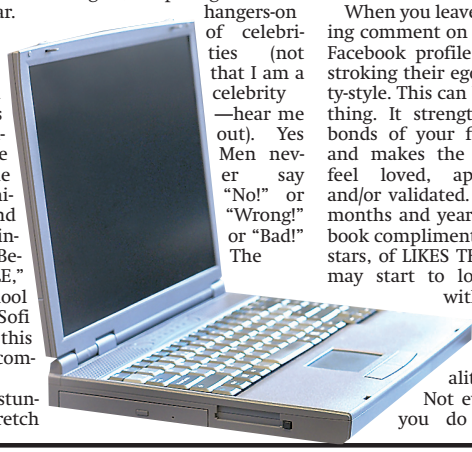
I need to quit Facebook before it gives me the brain of a child star.

Let me explain.

I recently posted a flattering profile photo that a friend took of me at his birthday party. Within a few minutes, the comments came flooding in. "Luminous!" one friend wrote. "Stunning!" insisted another. "Behold the ADORABLE," offered an old school chum. Real-time Sofi beamed, basking in this onslaught of cyber compliments.

Now, I am not "stunning." Not by any stretch of the imagination. That said, I am more than OK with my looks, but would place them in the "average to mildly foxy" range. What my lovely Facebook friends and acquaintances were doing, whether they meant to or not, was acting as a chorus of Yes Men.

Yes Men are the managers, the proteges and the hangers-on of celebrities (not that I am a celebrity —hear me out). Yes Men never say "No!" or "Wrong!" or "Bad!" The celebrity's every whim is satisfied. Every opinion (no matter how ignorant or flat-out crazy) is validated. Even the most idiotic actions are rewarded with a pat on the head. This is why former child stars are, for the most part, certifiable messes; their versions of reality are tragically skewed.



When you leave a flattering comment on a friend's Facebook profile, you are stroking their ego, celebrity-style. This can be a good thing. It strengthens the bonds of your friendship and makes the recipient feel loved, appreciated and/or validated. But after months and years of Facebook compliments, of gold stars, of LIKES THIS … we may start to lose touch with reality ourselves. The reality is this: Not everything you do is awesome.

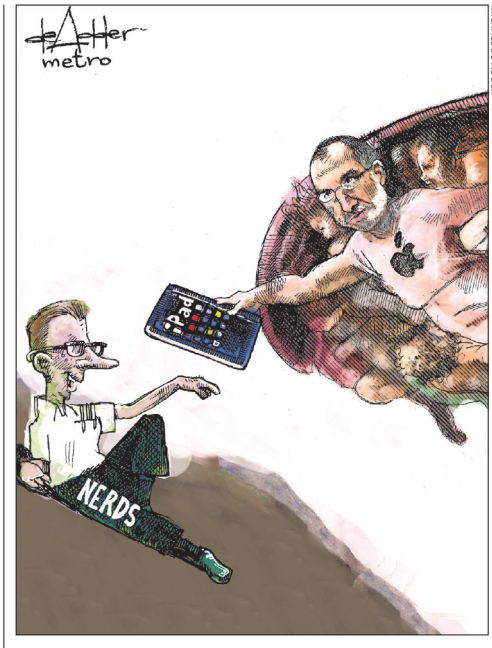
Sorry to be the one to break it to you. I mean, I'm sure you're really great and everything, but we've already seen that YouTube video a million times and no one cares to know which stupid crops you harvested on FarmVille.

Presumably, everyone on Facebook is a friend or fond acquaintance. Meaning that most of your interactions will be positive.

So here's a wacky thought: We should start adding enemies and acrimonious exes to Facebook! That way they can drop the odd, "My new boyfriend/girlfriend is way hotter and smarter than you. Also, why do you update your status every five minutes? Shut your virtual pie-hole already!"

Sometimes a heavy dose of perspective can be good.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Worth mentioning

PETA proposes robot for groundhog festival

An animal rights group wants organizers of Pennsylvania's Groundhog Day festival to replace Punxsutawney Phil with a robotic stand-in.

According to the long-time tradition, if Phil the groundhog sees his shadow Feb. 2, then there will be six more weeks of winter. If he does not appear to see his shadow, there will be an early spring.

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals says it's unfair to keep the animal in captivity and subject him to the huge crowds and bright lights that accompany tens of thousands of revellers each year in Punxsutawney. PETA is suggesting the use of an animatronic model.

But William Deeley, president of the Inner Circle of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, says the animal is "being treated better than the average child in Pennsylvania." The groundhog is kept in a climate-controlled environment and is inspected annually by the state Department of Agriculture.

Deeley says PETA isn't interested in Phil from Feb. 2 on, and is looking for publicity.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Views

World leaders mostly silent about FGM

GlobalView

Mona Eltahawy

metronews.ca/globalview

Imagine if every year three million boys had their penises cut off. Sound outrageous?

Well, every year three million girls have parts or all of their clitorises cut off in a procedure known as female genital mutilation (FGM). The clitoris has double the nerve endings that a penis has so my analogy to chopping off little boys' organs isn't too far off.

There are four types of FGM, ranging from the most "minor" — known as clitoridectomy, which involves the partial or total removal of the clitoris — to the most severe, known as infibulation, which involves removal of parts of the external genitalia followed by stitching together of what remains. The girl subjected to this then has her legs bound for about two weeks to create a seal over her genitals.

Have I been graphic enough?

And yet the world is mostly silent about the mutilation carried out on girls from infancy to about the age of 15 in at least 28 countries, mostly in Africa and the Middle East. Some immigrants have taken the practice with them to communities throughout the world. It is carried out for several reasons, including control of women's sexuality and initiation into womanhood.

FGM has no health benefits. Doctors say it causes lasting psychological trauma, extreme pain, chronic infections, bleeding, abscesses, tumours, urinary tract infections and infertility.

As you read this, British activist Julia Lalla-Maharajh will be at the World Economic Forum in Davos to shake the suits and wallets there into paying more attention to FGM. Her video appeal won the Davos Debates 2010 on YouTube, and on Jan. 30 she will be speaking on a panel about FGM.

It's important to remember FGM is not exclusive to one religion or social class. It is older than Christianity and Islam. Egyptian mummies are said to display characteristics of mutilation. And as recent as the 1950s, partial or total removal of the clitoris was prescribed in western Europe and the United States in response to hysteria, epilepsy, mental disorders, masturbation, nymphomania, melancholia and lesbianism.

The international community must speak out on behalf of girls and women and pour more support into campaigns that have worked to end FGM in some communities. Campaigners say the most effective ways involve a mix of human rights, education, community development, health care, and alternative rites of passage. Here's hoping Julia Lalla-Maharajh can persuade the suits and wallets.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

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Loblaw's operating chief leaving to take U.K. post

Loblaw Companies Ltd.'s chief operating officer Dalton Philips will leave the grocery company in March to become chief executive officer of U.K.'s fourth largest supermarket chain, Wm Morrison Supermarkets Plc. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Vancouver set to lead growth

Toronto will be 2nd, says report

The Olympic effect will give Vancouver's economy enough of a boost to make it the top economic performer among Canadian cities this year, according to a report by the Conference Board of Canada.

The board forecast yesterday that Canada's third-largest city will see economic growth leap by 4.5 per cent this year, after shrinking 1.8 per cent in 2009.

Vancouver's gold-medal performance is expected to easily better that of Toronto, projected to post the second-best performance with 3.5 per cent growth in 2010, followed by Kitchener's forecast to claim the bronze with 3.3 per cent growth.

Housing construction and consumer spending are forecast to rebound strongly in Vancouver, the think-tank said.

Growth

1. **VANCOUVER:** 4.5 per cent
2. **TORONTO:** 3.5 per cent
3. **KITCHENER:** 3.3 per cent

The Bank of Canada has projected that nationally, Canada's gross domestic product will advance by 2.9 per cent this year after contracting by 2.5 per cent in 2009.

This year most Canadian cities will be on the rebound, although to varying degrees, the Conference Board said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

United Airlines said yesterday that business travel is improving, echoing comments from rivals Delta and American.

Turbulent year for airlines

AIR TRAFFIC International air traffic suffered its worst post-war demand decline last year amid the financial crisis and recession, an industry association said yesterday. Passenger demand dropped 3.5 per cent while scheduled carriers flew 75.6 per cent full, said the International Air Transport Association.

Cargo demand suffered an even bigger hit, falling 10.1 per cent, with a load factor of 49.1 per cent.

IATA director general Giovanni Bisignani said the airline industry has lost 2½ years of growth in passenger market and 3½ years in the freight business. The situation started to improve in recent months, but the association expects international carriers will lose $5.6 billion US in 2010.

International passenger demand increased by 4.5 per cent in December and planes flew 77.6 per cent full as capacity fell 0.7 per cent. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

INVESTMENT Toronto-based investment management firm AGF Management Ltd. reported yesterday a fourth-quarter profit of $45.5 million, reversing a year-ago loss, as it boosted its dividend by four per cent.

INTEREST RATES The U.S. Federal Reserve has decided to hold interest rates at a record low and pledged to keep them there for an "extended period" to nurture the economic recovery and lower unemployment. One Fed member dissented from the decision to keep its target range for its bank lending rate at zero to 0.25 per cent, where it has stood since last December.

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Sports

Danton nets goal in debut

Former NHL player Mike Danton, left, scored a goal in his first hockey game in almost six years last night. The 29-year-old forward made his CIS hockey debut with the Saint Mary's Huskies during a 4-1 defeat to the Acadia Axemen. Danton's NHL career ended abruptly when he was convicted in April 2004 in a murder-for-hire plot in the United States. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

MARK DADSWELL/GETTY IMAGES

Daniel Nestor, left, and Nenad Zimonjic celebrate winning a point in their semifinal doubles match against Ivo Karlovic and Dusan Vemic earlier today at the Australian Open.

Nestor reaches doubles final

AUSTRALIAN OPEN Canadian Daniel Nestor and Serbian partner Nenad Zimonjic reached their fourth Grand Slam men's doubles final earlier today, defeating Croatia's Ivo Karlovic and Serbia's Dusan Vemic 6-4, 6-4 in semifinal action at the Australian Open.

No. 2 Nestor and Zimonjic will play the winner of the semifinal between American top seeds Bob and Mike Bryan and Finn Jarkko Nieminen and German partner Michael Kohlmann.

"We've built up a great rivalry with them," Nestor said of the Bryan twins.

"In the last few seasons, the year-end No. 1 ranking has come down to the last match of the season. If we play them in the final, it will be special as usual. If not ... well the match will be good anyway."

Nestor, from Toronto, and Zimonjic will bid for their third major title after winning Wimbledon the last two years. They lost the French Open final in 2008.

The straight-forward victory took just 61 minutes, with Nestor serving it out after double-faulting on the first of three match points.

Nestor, 37, will be competing for his 66th career title. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

SCANLIFE

Andre Dawson headed to Hall of Fame as a Montreal Expo, but says he would rather be inducted as a Chicago Cub. Scan this code for the story.

Raptors score big win

Victory puts Toronto a half-game ahead of Miami

NBA RESULTS

Heat 103 **Raptors** 111

Chris Bosh scored 24 points and had a season-best 18 rebounds to lead the Toronto Raptors to a 111-103 victory over the Miami Heat last night.

Andrea Bargnani added 27 points for the Raptors before a crowd of 18,265 at the Air Canada Centre.

Dwyane Wade led the Heat with 35 points while Jermaine O'Neal had 22.

The victory moved the Raptors a half-game ahead of the Heat for fifth place in the NBA's Eastern Conference.

The Raptors (24-22) took a nine-point early in the fourth quarter, but the Heat (23-22) narrowed Toronto's lead to 94-91 with 5:55 left in the game on a 15-foot jump shot by Udonis Haslem.

Bosh put the Raptors ahead 100-91 with an 18-foot jump shot with 4:14 to play. Once again, the Heat came back, climbing to within four points on Rafer Alston's three-pointer with 3:22 to play.

After two free throws by Haslem made it 102-98, Bosh came back with a layup on a pass from Bargnani to go up 104-98 with just more than two minutes left.

Hedo Turkoglu's two free throws put Toronto ahead 106-101, but Wade came back with a layup off a fast break to bring the Heat to within three points, 106-103, with 1:03 to play.

After Jose Calderon made one of two free throws, Dorell Wright missed a three-pointer and the Raptors came back to take a 110-103 lead with 15 seconds left on a three-pointer by Antoine Wright. THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto's Jose Calderon and Miami's Michael Beasley race for a loose ball last night at the Air Canada Centre. The Raptors, wearing vintage Toronto Huskies uniforms, beat the Heat 111-103.

Burke in no hurry to deal players who want out

LEAFS With gritty forward Jamal Mayers and physical defenceman Garnet Exelby having their agents seek trades on their behalf, Leafs GM Brian Burke says he won't be rushed into making any moves.

"I am not going to make a trade for the sake of a trade," Burke said.

Mayers became the first to publicly acknowledge he would welcome a trade to a contending team with the 35-year-old — an unrestricted free agent this summer — admitting after practice that his agent has contacted a number of teams on his behalf.

"I'm willing to do whatever I can to help the team, if that means moving on, then that's the way it has to be," said Mayers.

"I haven't had a chance to win yet, so I'd certainly like that opportunity, but I can't control that. I certainly like to think I come to the rink every day to play hard."

Mayers' agent, Pat Brisson, will let Burke know what teams are interested in Mayers' services. Burke said there was nothing untoward about Mayers' request, adding he wished it had remained confidential.

"His request was made professionally and quietly some time ago," said Burke in an email.

"I have no idea why or how it leaked." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

> **"I am not going to make a trade for the sake of a trade."**
> Brian Burke

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Each hair grows from a pocket in the skin called the hair follicle. During its growing phase, the follicle has a bulb-shaped bottom, the center of which is called the dermal papilla. The papilla is fed by very small blood vessels, which bring it food & oxygen and remove wastes. The papilla is highly sensitive to hormones and chemicals secreted by the body *(or ingested as a medicine)* which impacts hair growth.

It is believed that some individuals have a genetic predisposition to a receding hairline *(most common in men)* or hair/follicle thinning over larger areas of scalp *(more common in women)*. These conditions result from hormonal changes caused by an enzyme in the dermal papilla called 5-alpha-reductase. This enzyme breaks down the hormone testosterone into dihydrotestosterone *(DHT)*.

Over a period of time, an over abundance of DHT causes the hair follicle to degrade and shortens the active phase of the hair, eventually leading to thinner hair and eventual hair loss.

How does BIO-FEN PLUS™ *work?*

Specific compounds within the herbal extracts inhibit the 5-alpha-reductase *(and therefore reduce DHT)* to prevent or slow down the rate of hair loss. This process is the principle by which the prescription drugs such as Propecia *(finasteride)* work. However, BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains additional compounds which remove excess cholesterol and testosterone – the building blocks of DHT.

BIO-FEN PLUS™ also contains vitamins to increase blood flow to the small capillaries that feed the hair roots, to deliver the active herbal compounds and remove waste. **Therefore, BIO-FEN PLUS™ provides a natural, safer alternative to expensive drugs, and/or expensive & painful hair transplants.** As with the prescription alternatives, results vary from person to person, and no one product will work for everyone.

How long must I use BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ capsules are usually effective at stopping hair loss within the first two months. However, since healthy hair grows only about 1 cm each month, it may take up to three months before you notice that hair growth is increased or further hair loss is stopped.

Anyone experiencing new growth will see it within four to six months. Once results become apparent, some users are able to reduce their BIO-FEN PLUS™ supplement dose to one capsule every second or every third day. Some clients will continue to take BIO-FEN PLUS™ daily. Once you stop completely, however, your hair growth pattern will slowly go back to the point where you started.

How safe is BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

The ingredient combination in BIO-FEN PLUS™ is generally safe for most adults. However, the following cautions are advised:

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Vitamin B3: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you have impaired liver function.

Vitamin B6: Consult a health care practitioner prior to use if you are taking levodopa.

What is the quality of BIO-FEN PLUS™ *?*

BIO-FEN PLUS™ is manufactured in Canada according to a quality assurance program called Good Manufacturing Practices *(GMP)*. This ensures that the ingredients are tested for their level of quality, potency & purity, prior to production and again prior to sale.

See our website to locate your nearest Health Food Store or Pharmacy that offers BIO-FEN PLUS™ and other quality products from Hair Grow Technology. If you have any questions or comments about our products that target hair loss and support the growth of strong, healthy hair, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Niacinamide *(Vitamin B3)*	10.25 mg
Pyridoxine HCl *(Vitamin B6)*	2.00 mg
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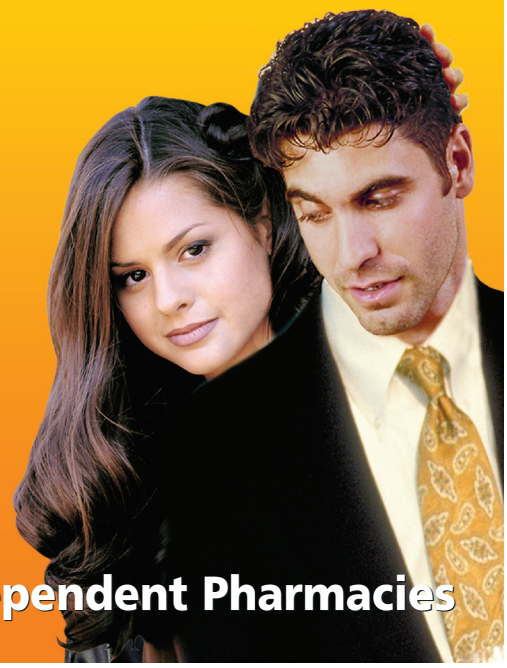

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NBA's rookie-sophomore game an international affair

Forwards Jonas Jerebko and Omri Casspi, the first NBA players from Sweden and Israel respectively, were selected for the annual rookie-sophomore game next month as part of all-star festivities. The game, pitting rookies against second-year players, will be played Feb. 12 in Dallas ahead of the NBA All-Star game. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colts trio has deep ties to N.O.

Manning, Wayne, Addai to get taste of home cooking with Saints in Super Bowl

Reggie Wayne remembers life growing up as a Saints fan.

People wore paper bags to games and those who didn't go had to listen to radio broadcasts because of the league-imposed blackout when games aren't sellouts.

Wayne sat right there in the crowd, listening to every call and cheering for Bobby Hebert and John Fourcade — names remembered by only the heartiest Saints fans.

Those tough days are now long gone. Next week, Wayne, a New Orleans native, will line up against the Saints with a chance to win the Super Bowl.

"I had a lot of fun times growing up, being a Saints fan," Wayne said yesterday. "Just growing up as a kid, as a huge Saints fan, it was always black and gold."

That was before Wayne collected his paycheque from the blue-and-white clad Colts.

Wayne isn't the only Colts player with a soft spot for the Saints — or the city of New Orleans.

Four-time league MVP Peyton Manning was a New Orleans celebrity from the time he and his brothers played prep ball at Isidore Newman. Manning's father, Archie, was the face of the Saints' franchise in the bleak 1970s and early 1980s, when bags were the fashionable headgear, Aints was the trendy nickname and winning seasons weren't even contemplated in The Big Easy.

Manning barely remembers those days, but he knows they were a stark contrast to what he witnessed after New Orleans' beat Minnesota in overtime Sunday.

"I enjoyed seeing Bourbon Street being so empty in the third quarter and then seeing it post-game," he said. "It was a sight to see."

Their ties to Louisiana became even stronger after hurricane Katrina hit in August 2005.

Manning and his younger brother, Eli, sent a plane full of supplies into the city to help. Wayne still recalls the trouble he had getting in touch with family members. Running back Joseph Addai, who won a national championship at LSU, was still attending college when the hurricane hit. The Houston native will never forget.

"We had to cancel our first game and had to use LSU as a place to bring some of the folks from New Orleans," Addai said yesterday.

"Me, myself, my area was flooded. Two weeks without light, electricity, none of that stuff. So I can only imagine what it was like for the people of New Orleans. I feel like them getting to the Super Bowl is a good thing for them."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARRY HOW/GETTY IMAGES

Peyton Manning, left, and Reggie Wayne grew up as New Orleans Saints fans. Manning's ties go back a generation, when his father, Archie, was the face of the Saints franchise.

"Just growing up as a kid, as a huge Saints fan, it was always black and gold."
Reggie Wayne

Golf needs Tiger Woods: Mickelson

GOLF The biggest crowd at Torrey Pines yesterday formed a semicircle around the 10th tee to watch Phil Mickelson, who suddenly is more than a hometown hero. He is looked upon now to deliver star power in the absence of Tiger Woods.

Typically, Mickelson relishes just about any challenge that involves Woods. Just not this one.

"Nobody will be able to ... fill the shoes," Mickelson said.

"Nobody will be able to ... fill the shoes."
Mickelson on Woods

Speaking for the first time since Woods' sordid downfall led to an indefinite break, Mickelson offered compassion and perspective. "The game of golf needs him to come back," Mickelson said. "It's important for him to come back and be a part of the sport. But right now, he's got a lot more important things going on in his life. Amy and I are good friends with both Tiger and Elin, and we care deeply about how this turns out."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arenas, Crittenton done for season

NBA Washington Wizards teammates Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton were suspended without pay for the remainder of the season yesterday by NBA commissioner David Stern, who said guns in the workplace "will not be tolerated."

Stern delivered the punishment after meeting with Arenas, turning his indefinite suspension into a suspension without pay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rooney's goal gives Manchester United win over rivals

SOCCER Defending champion Manchester United overcame archrival Manchester City to reach the League Cup final, but was toppled from the English Premier League summit by Chelsea yesterday.

Wayne Rooney's 21st goal of the season in stoppage time prevented the Manchester derby going into extra time, and clinched a 3-1 victory at Old Trafford to send United through 4-3 on aggregate.

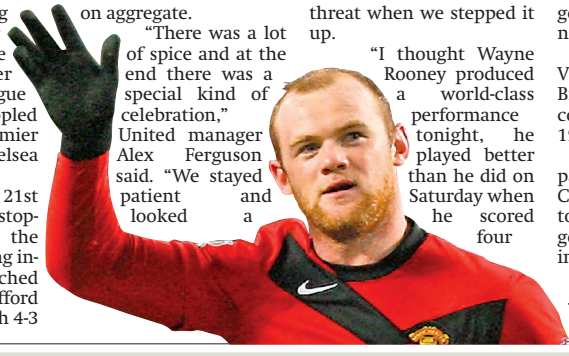
"There was a lot of spice and at the end there was a special kind of celebration," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "We stayed patient and looked a threat when we stepped it up.

"I thought Wayne Rooney produced a world-class performance tonight, he played better than he did on Saturday when he scored four goals (against Hull). Phenomenal."

United will play Aston Villa in the Feb. 28 final. Big-spending City has not contested a final since 1981.

In London, Frank Lampard scored twice as Chelsea cruised to a 3-0 victory over Birmingham to go a point ahead of United in the title race.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Wayne Rooney

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

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Carolina 5 N.Y. Rangers 1
Buffalo 2 New Jersey 1 (SO)
Washington 5 Anaheim 1
Detroit at Minnesota
Calgary at Dallas
St. Louis at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

TORONTO 111 Miami 103
L.A. Lakers 118 Indiana 96
Cleveland 109 Minnesota 95
Memphis at Detroit
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Unofficial ads slammed
The U.S. Olympic Committee attacked non-official advertising tied to next month's Vancouver Olympics, claiming it damages the companies that struck official deals. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITO

ALEX GRIMM/BONGARTS/GETTY IMAGES

Pilot Pierre Lueders, front, and team members Justin Kripps, Jesse Lumsden and Neville Wright compete in their first run of the four-man bobsleigh competition during the FIBT Bob & Skeleton World Cup Dec. 13, 2009, in Winterberg, Germany.

Veteran bobsledder has untested team

Fifth Games for Lueders, first for teammates

Bobsledder Pierre Lueders will drive for two more medals next month at the Vancouver Olympics, but he'll do it with two rookies in his sled.

Lueders will drive with Edmonton Eskimos running back Jesse Lumsden, track star Neville Wright — both from Edmonton — and pusher Justin Kripps of Summerland, B.C., behind him.

The veteran pilot headlines the list of 18 athletes who were officially named to Canada's bobsled team for the Games yesterday. While Lueders has yet to win a medal on the World Cup circuit this season, he's confident he can make it back to the Olympic podium.

"The way I look at it we're in the playoffs, and how often have you seen teams written off that were not expected to do anything in any sport and suddenly in a big event they're right there," Lueders said. "I don't worry about it too much. My entire objective for the season was to be prepared for the Olympics, and the way it looks right now that's where we're headed."

On the web
Learn more about Pierre Lueders in an interactive profile at **metronews.ca/sports**

Vancouver will be the fifth Olympics for the 39-year-old Lueders. The Edmonton native won gold in Nagano in 1998 and silver in Turin in 2006, both in the two-man events. He also has 88 career medals on the World Cup circuit.

Lumsden and Wright have about a year's experience, while Kripps has four years in the sled but is headed to his first Olympics.

Lumsden has been with Lueders on the two-man sled for half this World Cup season and is set to do so again in Vancouver.

"For everything that's happened over the last three years of my life, to have this opportunity to represent my country is the greatest feeling I've had in sports," Lumsden said.

Yesterday's announcement ceremony was held in front of 700 flag-waving schoolchildren at a Calgary elementary school.

In Canada's other sled, Lyndon Rush of Humboldt, Sask., will have Edmonton's Dave Bissett, Calgary's Lascelles Brown and Chris Le Bihan of Kelowna, B.C., with him when he drives in his first Olympics.

Bissett had been Lueders' drivemate for the last few years before being replaced this season. He is a late replacement for Dan Humphries, who raced with Rush all year, but became a liability for the Games due to an ailing hip.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Professor says his formula shows Canada will lead the medal parade in Vancouver

PREDICTION Canada will indeed own the podium at the Vancouver Olympics, according to a medals projection by a Colorado College economics professor.

Daniel Johnson, a Canadian who serves as the Gerald L. Schlessman Professor of Economics and director of the Innovative Minds Program at Colorado College, has been projecting Olympic medal numbers since 1999 when he did his first prediction for the 2000 Games. Since then, his figures have been 94 per cent accurate for actual medal counts and 87 per cent for gold medals.

Johnson's numbers say Canada will win 27 total medals, including five gold, at the Vancouver-Whistler Games. The U.S. and Norway will come next with 26 apiece (including five gold for the Americans and four for the Norwegians), followed by Austria (25 medals, four gold), Sweden (24, 4), Russia (23, 8), Germany (20,7), Italy (19, 3), Finland (14, 4) and Switzerland (13, 4).

17 Daniel Johnson underpredicted Canada's medal haul in Beijing, calling for 17 medals but no gold. The actual total was 18, including three gold.

Interestingly, Johnson's model has virtually nothing to do with the athletes involved. It instead focuses on per capita income, population, climate and political structure of countries, combined with 60 years of Olympic results.

One aspect Johnson does take into account is the advantage of being the host country.

"It's probably the single most important factor, if considered individually," he said. "During the Summer Games, the home advantage is really huge, the home country usually wins about 25 or 26 more medals than they would if they were not hosting the Games.

"In the Winter Games, that advantage is smaller partly because the variation in who hosts is smaller and because the number of nations who participate is smaller, so the advantage is three medals — one of them gold."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Combining a vivid history with ever-present joie de vivre, Church and Wellesley Village is a neighbourhood that never rests on its laurels.

Church and Wellesley Village is known best as the home to Toronto's gay rights movement, but offers up much to those from all walks of life.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

Sandwiched between Charles and Carlton streets to the north and south and Yonge and Jarvis streets from west to east, the village is a part of Toronto's vibrant Church-Yonge Corridor and an iconic piece of the city famous around the world for its historical and cultural significance.

Long revered as the root of the Toronto's (and Canada's) gay rights movement, the village today is a neighbourhood known for its diversity that transcends cultural and social boundaries.

Home to Pride Week celebrations every summer and hip, off-the-beaten-path shopping the rest of the year, Church and Wellesley Village is a place that melds bohemian pursuits and big aspirations.

The 1970s and '80s saw a huge upheaval in the neighbourhood as it became the centre of Toronto's LGBT community. Much of Toronto's gay-positive atmosphere today can be traced directly to the struggles of brave activists who decades ago marched against prejudice down Church Street.

As the city has changed, so has the neighbourhood. No longer the only gay-friendly enclave in the city, the village has evolved to become an increasingly affluent community of many varying cultures and religious backgrounds.

Dog walkers head southeast to Allan Gardens where the iconic conservatory provides a great backdrop for catching some fresh air. Pub-hoppers take delight in the area's several-dozen thriving bars, many of which cater to the straight scene.

The neighbourhood is also a short hop away from other downtown hotspots like Bloor Street, Yonge & Dundas and Church & Parliament, making it a very convenient base for exploring city life beyond its own compact boundaries.

The AIDS memorial in Cawthra Park is a powerful testament those lost to the disease and the friendly, independent stores that line Church Street are a symbol of the village's bright, eclectic future.

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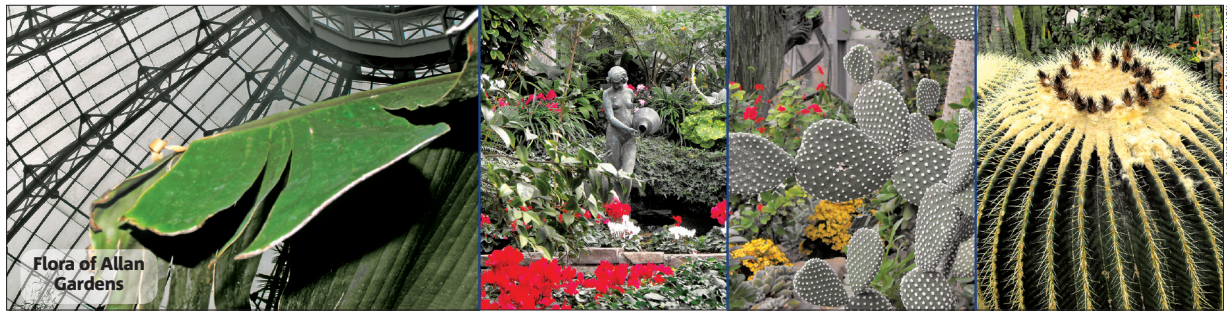
Getting around in Church and Wellesley village

There are three subway stops on the Yonge line at Bloor, Wellesley and College, many bus lines throughout the area, nearby highway access to the Don Valley Parkway to the east and the Gardiner Expressway to the south. RAFAEL BRUSILOW

The Lowdown:

- **AVERAGE REAL ESTATE VALUE:** $312,841
- **AVERAGE RENT:** $954
- **NOTABLE SCHOOLS:** Church Street Junior Elementary PS (83 Alexander St.), Jarvis Collegiate Institute (495 Jarvis St.)
- **GROVERY STORES:** Cumbrae Butchers (481 Church St.), Hasty Market (557 Church St.), Super Freshmart (524 Church St.), Provincial Fine Foods (483 Church St.)
- **CONDO DEVELOPMENTS:** 22 Condominiums (22 Wellesley St. E.), Manhattan Townhomes (539 Jarvis), Verve Tower and Lofts (2 Carlton St.), Crystal Blue (Balmuto and Bloor streets), One Cole (Dundas and Parliament streets), X The Condominium (Jarvis and Charles)

RAFAEL BRUSILOW


Flora of Allan Gardens

KEITH CARMAN/FOR METRO CANADA

AIDS Memorial in Cawthra Park

519 Community Centre

Legend

- 1: Crystal Blu, Balmuto and Bloor, Bezis International
- 2: X The Condominum, Jarvis and Charles, Great Gulf Homes
- 3: 22 Condominiums, 22 Wellesley St. E., Lanterra Developments
- 4: Verve Tower and Lofts, 2 Carlton St., Tridel Corporation
- 5: The Carlton Cinema. I used to live above it actually. 20 Carlton
- 6: Maple Leaf Gardens
- 7: Hair of the Dog pub/resto
- 8: Church St elementary School, 83 Alexander st.
- 9: Corner of Church and Wellesley.
- 10: The 519 community centre
- 11: Cawthra Square Park
- 12: Manhattan Townhomes, 539 Jarvis, Panterra Federated
- 13: Wellesley Hospital
- 14: Jarvis CI, Secondary, 495 Jarvis St.
- 15: Allan Gardens

What do you like about Church and Wellesley? -By Rafael Brusilow

Shaun Reid
age 28, works in the area
A: "I love the diverse group of people that live down here, there's a lot of culture. The Churchmouse and Firkin is definitely one of my favourite pubs."

Kyle Rae
age 56, Toronto City Councillor
A: "The shopping is great here — I have the best meat store, the best cheese shop and the best delicatessens, all within arm's reach."

Brian Menogue
age 27, lives in the area
A: "It's friendly and outgoing and there lots to do. Woody's is great for drinks and food."

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JEFF MAYER
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EMAD PETRO
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JOHN SWIERGOSZ
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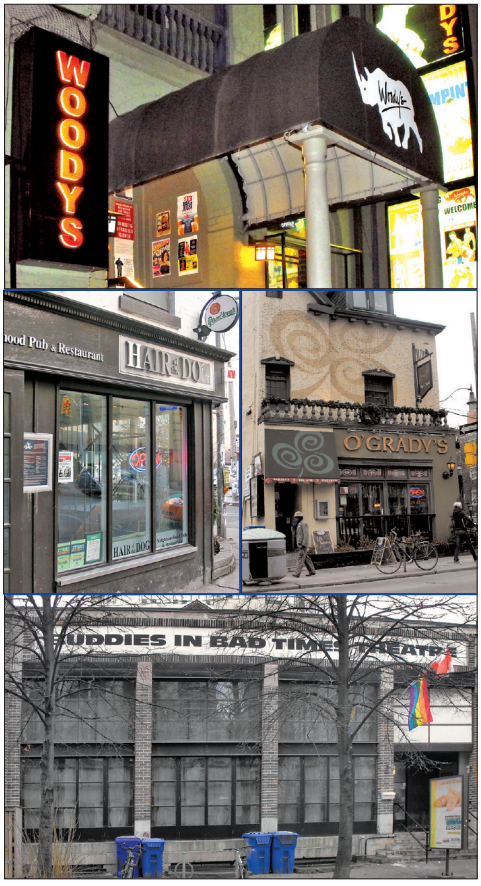
Coffee break needed?
When a short break is of the essence, few can resist the delectable scent of Java Jive's fresh coffee and borderline-sinful savouries just up the street from Church and Wellesley Village's namesake intersection. KEITH CARMAN/FOR METRO CANADA



Daylife and a nightlife

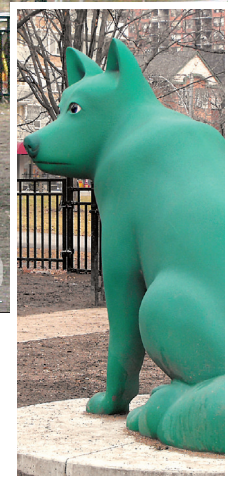
KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Diverse. Simple yet teeming with interpretations; it's the perfect descriptive for Church and Wellesley Village, one of Toronto's most unique communities founded on mutually supportive albeit aberrant cultures.

Abounding with a seemingly endless array of heritage buildings, independent speciality adult boutiques, eateries, local services and green spaces, Church-Wellesley Village isn't about bargain-hunting for goods so much as experiences. And for that, it's as peaceful and enthralling as it is beautifully bountiful.

Bearing one of Hogtown's oldest parks in Allan Gardens — adored for its leash-free dog zone and botanical garden with rare tropical plants maintained in the inimitable Palm House — at the southern most tip, Church and Wellesley Village proves an unending source of wonder. Ingesting/exploring The Keg Mansion, a reportedly haunted century home that has become the showpiece for its franchise owners, is a luxurious experience while locals proudly sing the praises of miniscule Just Thai for its value, service and expediency.

Allan Gardens off-leash dog park (and dog statue, right)



Proudly fostering unity, Church and Wellesley Village is comparable to few. Although the annual Pride Week celebrations have become world-renowned, it's their ongoing services that provide the strength and unity crucial to a successful ward. Many residents adamantly praise The 519 Community Centre for its endless roster of recreational activities and welcoming space for groups — social or political — to meet.

As for meeting after hours, this neighbourhood rarely sleeps. The raucous fun of Woody's bar/nightclub has been enticing for almost quarter-century, while a subdued atmosphere at ethnic pubs, such as Irish O'Grady's with its vast side patio/free pool every evening, or Hair Of The Dog's modern styling and wide selection of spirits and wines, ensures area nightlife is never wanting. On a more voyeuristic level, Buddies In Bad Times Theatre provides regular dramatic entertainment with a twist, its mission statement being, "the promotion of queer theatrical expression."

Revered for its embrace of alternative lifestyles, Church and Wellesley Village isn't just another big city intersection. It's a vibrant territory where individuality is celebrated as much as it's encouraged.

PHOTOS: KEITH CARMAN/FOR METRO CANADA — HAIR OF THE DOG PUB, GROUP SHOT AT DOG PARK: RAFAEL BRUSILOW/FOR METRO CANADA

More online
For more homes, condos and decor coverage, see Metronews.ca.

Urban chic and a nice price

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Keeping a modern style while maintaining comfort is a challenge but 64 Benton proves that often just enough of both can be just right.

Located in downtown Kitchener, 64 Benton Condominium takes the concept of hassle-free living seriously with affordable units meant for singles or couples who want the downtown lifestyle without having to pay an arm and a leg — or sacrificing their sense of style.

Lana Sherman, 64 Benton's designer, says with all the new condo developments in the area catering to urban locals and Toronto commuters alike, the very fabric of the city is changing quickly and 64 Benton taps into that tangible sense of urban chic. Units in the building are all standardized at 600 square feet and one bedroom and start at just $99,900 despite a central downtown location.

"It's completely catering to a downtown resident, someone who wants to be in an urban environment and doesn't have a lot of stuff or need a lot of closet space but wants to be in the thick of it all," Sherman said.

Unique amenities include a personal concierge, free Internet, free grocery deliveries and even free morning coffee while units themselves — all built to a standard 600 square-foot, one bedroom size — all feature wood laminate floors and dark wood kitchen cabinetry. Sherman placed an emphasis on neutral tones punched up with splashes of light colour to create a look that invites and inspires.

"We picked fairly neutral background colours with a hint of lighter colours like blue and there are nice, clean lines everywhere. The idea is that you come in and definitely feel like you're in a modern environment but it still feels very inviting," she said.

Leather couches were crucial to complete the look, Sherman says, because they offer comfort without sacrificing elegance.

"We're trying to come up with a look that is cosy without feeling old, which is why we used leather. We don't want it to feel too coldly modern but not too passé either," She said.

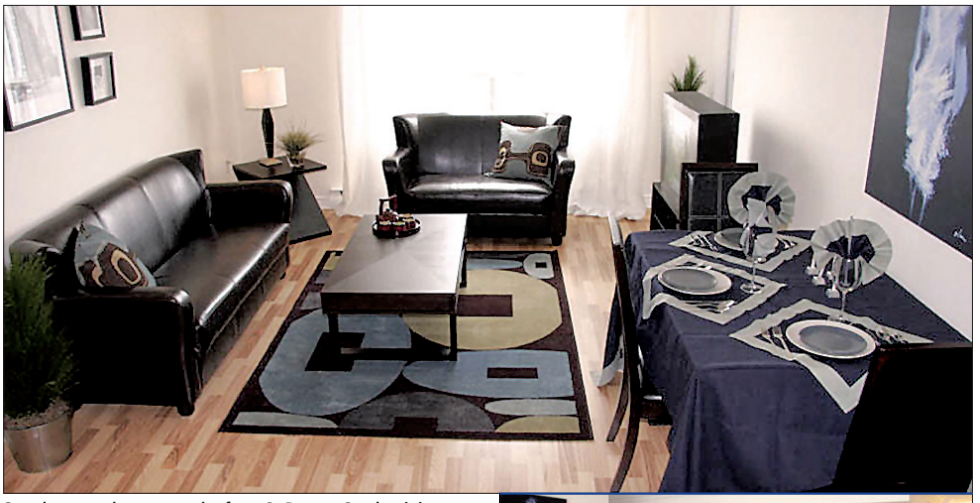
Sherman hopes the space feels like an instant oasis of peace.

"I think you feel a sense of decompression as you walk it, it's very relaxing. Ultimately you want to have a place of Zen away from the hustle and bustle of living downtown," she said.

"It's completely catering to a downtown resident, someone who wants to be in an urban environment."
Lana Sherman

64 Benton Condo

- 64benton.com
- Available now
- Sizes & prices: Three different layouts at 600 sq feet each, starting at $99,900



Seen here are decor examples from 64 Benton Condominium.

Toronto condominium craze continues in 2010

RooftopSurfing
Stephen Dupuis
metronews.ca/rooftopsurfing

The sight of construction cranes in Toronto is becoming ubiquitous and based on the final 2009 new home sales results released to BILD by RealNet Canada Inc., the cranes will be part of your vista for years to come.

There were 33,615 new homes and condos sold in the GTA last year, up 24 per cent over 2008. Forty-six per cent or 15,425 of those units were high-rise condo apartment suites with a smattering of lofts or stacked units mixed in.

Given the pre-sale nature of our housing market, the crane companies can look forward to "towering" business in 2010 and beyond as those projects move out of the pre-sale and into the construction phase. Those cranes are symbols of tens of thousands of direct and indirect construction jobs leading to dreams coming true for the future homeowners and vibrant new neighbourhoods within our existing communities.

I said last week that roughly 80 per cent of high-rise sales occur within the City of Toronto. The actual 2009 total of 11,944 units works out to 77 per cent, so I wasn't far off. Breaking the Toronto numbers down, 69 per cent of the City's condos were sold in the old City of Toronto followed by 18 per cent in North York, nine per cent in Etobicoke and four per cent in Scarborough.

I also said that outside the 416 area code, Mississauga and Markham have seen most of the suburban condo development. In 2009, Markham was No. 2 with 1,003 high-rise units sold while Mississauga was not far behind with 823. The previous year, Mississauga edged Markham 1,049 to 533.

Rounding out the Top 5, it's back to southern York Region with Richmond Hill in fourth with 452 new condos sold, followed by Vaughan at 362 units.

While the preponderance of high-rise condos continues to be built within Toronto, we are seeing more and more suburban condo development as the market matures.

With high-rise projects sprouting up in traditional low-rise bastions like Oakville, Burlington, Milton, Brampton and Whitby (the next five in the Top 10), we're witnessing a steady evolution in the GTA new housing market as we move towards much more intensified development patterns pursuant to the Greater Golden Horseshoe Growth Plan.

Stephen Dupuis is president and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD). He can be reached at president@bildgta.ca.

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Ready for a **dinner party?**

Homes in **Style**

JENNIFER BILL
for Metro Canada

Fine food, fab friends and fun finishing touches are the ingredients to a successful dinner party.

Give your social evening its own style by paying attention to the small details. Just as important as ensuring the food is tasty and the bar fully stocked, a fashionably fixed-up home will enable guests to feel welcome and special. Personalize their experience with placeholders; use fruit or flowers for added creativity.

"I use white china and accessorize in flowers and linen," said Virginie Martocq, interior decorator and home editor at Chatelaine. "Dim lighting for me is key and that is complemented by candlelight. I always choose white candles — never scented as you don't want the food and the candle to compete."

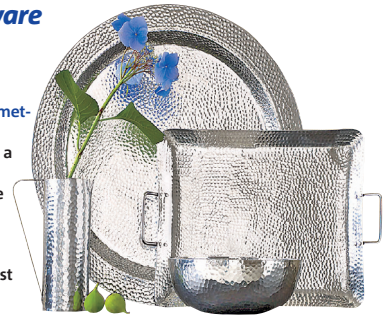
Place a candle in a square vase surrounded by stemless flowers. For flowers Martocq suggests hyacinths, wintergreens, big-bloom hydrangeas, or tulips in one color, either cut into little glasses or potted in a wine bucket. Keep centerpieces low so conversation across the table is unimpeded.

"The easiest way to get a good look is to grab a whole bunch of big blooms and put them all over the house in various vases," Martocq said.

Don't worry about the house being perfect and orderly, Martocq said.

"I think dimming the lights can hide a lot of sins."

Silverware



Exotic hammered-metal serving pieces bring a distinctive gleam to the tabletop. Square $5-$99; round $12-$59. West Elm, westelm.com.

A trio of mouthblown glass beads hovers within each of these graceful silver-plated metal and glass Dew Drop Coffee Spoons. Set of six, $78. Anthropologie, anthropologie.com.

Wood-ware

These artful Acacia Entertaining pieces are crafted of richly grained acacia wood with a bleached finish. West Elm, $19-$59, westelm.com.

Handcarved olivewood twines with earthy grace on this olivewood Braai Serving Set, with lush wood grain that will only improve with age. Handmade in Kenya. Anthropologie, $18, anthropologie.com.

Beast-ware

Seemingly plucked from a fairytale dining table, it wouldn't be surprising if this Italian, claw-footed Beast's Feast Tureen skitters over to your place when you'd like another helping. Anthropologie, $148, anthropologie.com.

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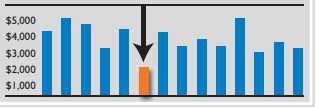

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A laundry room can be more than just that dingy room with a washer and dryer.

Time to spice up your sterile laundry room

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

Laundry has traditionally been done in a grungy basement. I'm giving myself away here, but I remember my mother doing laundry in a wringer-washer. That means she ran clothes through two rotating cylinders to squeeze out water after it was washed. And then she brought it outdoors and hung it to dry, even in the winter.

Well, those days are long over. She now has a tidy little laundry, with a front-loading, water-saving washer and energy-efficient dryer, a long counter for sorting and folding, a sink with a pull-out drying rack and kitchen-style cabinets to store all her laundry stuff. The walls are covered with water-resistant wallpaper, she has a cushy rubber-backed mat along the tiled floor, and she has little decorations hung all about — maybe not my style but undeniably hers.

Whether you simply want to hum as you do your laundry or you care more about creating a stylish place, here's some hints to make this oft-neglected area into a functional and great-looking space.

- Laundry is all about cleaning, so keep the look crisp and bright. I love the look of sparkling white subway tiles to accent a wall that has been painted a bright, cheery colour. Use patterned or bright curtains.
- If your laundry is in a multi-use space that includes other functions, or is in a mudroom or kitchen, you may want to keep the look unified.
- Tiles or linoleum works well as flooring, accented if you wish with a rubber-backed mat to save your back.
- Organization is vitally important. Make sure you have enough shelving or storage to store all your laundry room necessities.
- Use attractive, colour-coordinated metal bins or wicker baskets as hampers. If space is tight, you could also hang labelled bags to hold soiled laundry.
- Consider coordinated bins or baskets labelled with the names of family members to make clean clothing distribution easier.
- Use attractive kitchen-style shelving or cupboards rather than utility shelving.
- Make sure you have a folding surface, whether it's a table, a counter or a fold-out shelf.
- Use a sink with good looks rather than a plastic laundry tub and include a retractable drying rack for hand-washables.
- Also include a section of closet rod, so that you can hang shirts to dry or prevent wrinkles after clothing comes out of the dryer.
- A fold-out ironing board is a convenient and space-saving addition.
- Make provision for music or install a small TV if you like to watch as you work.
- Last but not least, splurge on beautiful artwork or accessories. Plants also create a softer effect in a space that can seem sterile.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

Back taxes owning?

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan

jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q We have received in the mail a back tax bill that has been sent by a bailiff with respect to property taxes that were the responsibility of the former owner of our house. We were not aware that these taxes were even owing. What should we do?

A In the past, your lawyer would have written a tax letter to the City to obtain a tax certificate at a cost to you, which would have indicated that there were tax arrears. However, with the advent of title insurance, any arrears in taxes attributable to the former owner are covered by the insurance policy. Tax arrears although not common do affect some real estate transactions.

Simply have your lawyer provide you with your title insurance policy, contacts and you can make a claim with the appropriate title insurance company (just as you would if your basement flooded a few days after you had purchased the home). Generally, insurance companies are quite forthcoming with payment.

If you want the added assurance that you will not have to go through this process, you can request your lawyer to order a tax certificate prior to the transaction (at a cost to you) and it will set out if there are any arrears.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

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Hockey-inspired collection

Dsquared2's fall 2010 menswear runway show held last week in Milan paid tribute to their Canadian roots with hockey-inspired designs on models wearing makeup that showed them battered, bruised and bloodied. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Style

Clothing for the Shore?

Jenni Farley, better known as "JWoww" on the hit MTV show Jersey Shore, is capitalizing on her new-found fame with a collection of skimpy made-to-order party tops. The cleavage-baring garments can be seen on her website (jwoww.com). However, the reality star recently Tweeted to fans that web sales have been discontintued and that her clothing line is coming out "late spring/early summer."

METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

All about Alice

Tim Burton's new film inspires collections by some of the top names in fashion

Designer Sue Wong's Alice in Wonderland-inspired babydoll dress ($399). Part of the Sue Wong for Walt Disney Signature collection.

JORDANA DIVON
for Metro Canada

The designers have spoken: Alice is this season's It Girl.

From haute couture, to delicate Swarovski pendants, and even her own OPI nail polish line, everyone is trying to get a piece of Ms. Wonderland before her new Disney-backed movie hits the big screen in March.

Banking on director Tim Burton's reputation for visual genius, Disney asked a number of world-class designers to create original pieces based on the film's bizarrely gothic, yet colourfully whimsical look.

And what a response they got. With names like Stella McCartney, Alexander McQueen and Christopher Kane all gearing up to release their own Alice-inspired items next month, it's clear that something about Alice has hit a chord amongst the creative set.

Hollywood fashion designer Sue Wong, who created more than 10 new dresses based on the film, claims it was her childhood love of Disney, coupled with an admiration for Burton's cinematic style that led to her participation.

"There is always a fantasy element to (Burton's) work, informed by a bit of dark, gothic humor, and his work is highly visual, often with a period twist," says Wong. "As I do a lot of period adaptations in my design work, and the period for Alice is set in the Victorian era, it was not a stretch to incorporate Victorian elements and details."

Wong's collection, which features sexy, vampish looks inspired by the Red Queen alongside more girlish, innocent designs based on Alice's character, range from $329 US to $609 and can be found on the designer's website, suewong.com.

Not to be excluded from the tea party, luxury crystal brand Swarovski has also released a special Alice in Wonderland collection called "Underland." The line's colourful jewelry pieces are a departure from the company's more simple, traditional fare.

Highlights include a pink flower garden pendant with a crystal drop ($105), a gold White Rabbit charm necklace ($160), and a Red Queen of Hearts ring ($120).

Diana Mazzuca, Swarovski's public relations and communications manager, says the collection sets a precedent for the brand.

"We've always had a piece that has been featured in movies, like our iconic Nirvana pendant in Sex and the City, but this is the first time Swarovski has actually developed an entire collection around a film," says Mazzuca.

Whether Burton has a critical and box office hit remains to be seen, but based on the caliber of creative talent his film has attracted, this Alice has undoubtedly become one of Disney's most stylish muses.

Swarovski's limited edition Alice in Wonderland collection debuts the last week of February. The line is available at all Swarovski gallery stores, or online at swarovski.com. Above: Red Queen Heart and Cards ring ($120) and earrings ($100).

Above, top: Smashing Time necklace, part of the Tom Binns for Walt Disney signature line, ranging from $1,000 US to $2,000.
Right: Swarovski's Tea Party White Rabbit pendant ($160).
Above, left: Swarovski's Mad Hatter Bracelet ($150).

Sue Wong didn't just focus on Alice for her Wonderland collection. She also gives a nod to the Red Queen with this sexy, red cocktail dress ($399), left. Purchase Sue Wong dresses at online at suewong.com.

A window to Wonderland

- Some of the other designers who have jumped down the rabbit hole are Ann Demeulemeester, Martin Margiela, Bernhard Willhelm, and Manish Arora, whose one-off Alice dresses will be featured in the window of Parisian department store Printemps throughout the month of February.

JORDANA DIVON/FOR METRO CANADA

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Two new Andy Thé-Anh stores
Canadian luxury fashion house Andy Thé-Anh is opening two new locations in Toronto and closing its current 83 Yorkville Ave. store. The two new 1,000-square-foot stores will be located at 27 Bellair St. and 2901 Bayview Ave. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Old furs, new life

Harricana's Ecoluxe collection transforms forgotten coats, accessories into chic

Harricana fur vest ($798), above, and boot covers ($289), below.

HIMANI EDIRIWEERA
for Metro Canada

Putting the hot back into cold, Harricana's Ecoluxe collection for winter 2010 reflects the sexy and chic side of frigid Canadian climates with its environmentally conscious luxury fur coats and accessories.

A fashionable and ecological solution to restoring the old fur coat hanging in the closet of the house you grew up in can now be a unique accessory to the Harricana Par Mariouche collection.

"We're enjoying taking what people don't want anymore, what people don't find fashionable enough and turning them into something that's nice and trendy and beautiful," says Harricana designer Mariouche Gagné.

Based in Montreal with a small production — many items are limited with 20 to 500 units — Harricana's Canadian-made luxe recycled collection of one-of-a kind fur accessories and outwear is now available at its e-boutique at harricana.qc.ca. Many products are made-to-order.

In earlier years, the Harricana winter collection concentrated on a raw, natural look — a look inspired by the Inuit culture.

The Harricana Winter 2010 Collection features a city sleek theme with monochrome colours. Boudoir, a luxurious and femme fatale collection, targets the more sophisticated and feminine woman; and Intemporelle emcompasses all the Harricana classics.

"A lot of our products are designed to be both beautiful and practical. Often in winter you find very practical gear but you don't really have very feminine, very trendy gear," Gagné, 38, says.

It started when the designer was studying at a school in Italy and faced a roadblock due to a lack of funds. Her mother sent her a fax to enter a fur contest and using her mom's old raccoon pelts, she transformed them into her new career.

Visit Harricana's new e-boutique at harricana.qc.ca

Since then, the mother of two, hobby pilot and full-time designer, started recycling a number of pelts, silks and wedding dresses. Her line is worn by celebrities like Johnny Depp, Julie Depardieu, daughter of actor Gérard Depardieu, and a number of artists in France.

And animal lovers are Harricana lovers, too. "A lot of people buying my things are saying they would never buy new. I even have vegetarians wearing my things," Gagné said. "We have to really start being careful with everything we buy and everything we put our money toward because we're actually sponsoring companies to either do things the wrong way or the right way."

Harricana leopard print fur purse ($449).

Harricana's luxe recycled collection of one-of-a-kind fur accessories are all Canadian made. On model: knit scarf ($458) and hat ($230).

THE HOT LIST

What's hot this month? We pick the best

Special Request
These palettes are stacked with custom shades to flatter your eye colour. Physicians Formula Shimmer Strips Custom Eye Enhancing Shadow & Liner in Pop Hazel Eyes and Pop Brown Eyes ($15.79 each)

Finger Food
If you like the liquid Lola, you'll love this cocktail ring filled with the hard copy of Marc Jacobs' peony infused floral. Lola Marc Jacobs Solid Perfume Ring ($49)

Pink Slip
Get instantly pretty with this super-pigmented fuchsia blush. Smashbox Blush Rush in Radiance ($21)

Star Power
Inspired by old Hollywood, this rich raspberry polish feels very Marilyn. Estée Lauder Michael Kors Very Hollywood Nail Lacquer in Bungalow Pink ($25)

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Alicia Keys engaged

Alicia Keys had a lot to smile about on her 29th birthday on Monday: an engagement ring from her producer beau, Swizz Beatz. A pal says Beatz proposed with a seven-carat sparkler right before her big day. USMAGAZINE.COM

Entertainment

The nominees

Anne Hathaway will announce this year's Oscar nominations. The star will join Academy President Tom Sherak to announce the names on Tuesday.

FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Basia Bulat bares her heart

Basia **Bulat**

Album: Heart of My Own
Label: Secret City/Universal
Rating: ●●●●

THERE'S NO DOUBT Basia Bulat's Polaris Music Prize nomination helped her get more gigs at home and abroad, but who needs awards after creating a disc this good? The Toronto-born singer songwriter's followup to the critically acclaimed Oh, My Darling, is a big step in the right direction. While her tunes are still rooted in folk pop, the arrangements are louder, more complex, yet still intimate. It's all pretty good, but If Only You, a rollicking country tune, complete with horns and keys, will easily be many fans' favourite.

Bryan Borzykowski /for Metro Canada

Corinne **Bailey Rae**

Album: The Sea
Label: Virgin/EMI
Rating: ●●●½

DON'T BUY THIS CD looking for an upbeat hit like Put Your Records On. You're not going to find it here. What you will find is an uncompromising artist with a sweet, jazzy lilt to her voice that's warm enough to melt an iceberg. Rae puts aside all thoughts of entering the pop side of contemporary R&B, choosing to push ahead into more sophisticated territories occupied by respected jazz and soul singers like Liz Wright and Madeleine Peyroux. Rae lost her husband, saxophonist Jason Rae, to a drug overdose in 2008. Many of the 11 tracks on The Sea are coated with that grief, but she handles it delicately with style and grace on standout tracks like Are You Here, I'd Do It All Again and I Would Like Call It Beauty.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Heart of My Own is the followup to Basia Bulat's Polaris-nominated album Oh, My Darling.

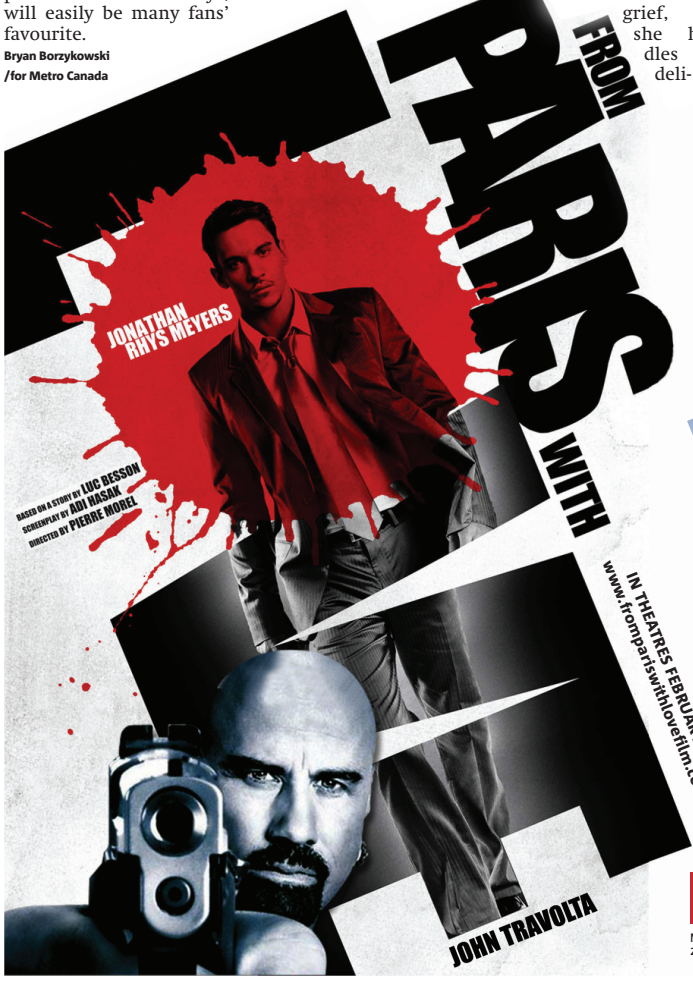
Album Reviews
music@metronews.ca

Woodhands

Album: Remorsecapade
Label: Paper Bag
Rating: ●●●●

WOODHANDS MAY ONLY be a duo, but Dan Werb and Paul Banwatt have the energy of an overcapacity warehouse party. And that kind of location would best suit the uninhibited spirit of this album. Their songs work like a dual-action formula — they can evoke both the need for a dance-off and a heart-to-heart. Pockets sings about holding hands but sweats from the burst of disco punk, Sluts calls on erratic rhythms to address promiscuity as a unisex issue and Dissembler softens up for some smitten boy-girl electro pop. When The Party Is Over may signal an end to the party, but like a musical Viagra, Remorsecapade leaves you keyed up and ready to go.

Cam Lindsay /for Metro Canada



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Hogan's wife tells all
Hulk Hogan's ex-wife Linda Bollea is set to reveal all about her time with the wrestling legend in a new tell-all book. Hogan and Bollea split in 2007 amid reports of infidelity and they have since battled a bitter divorce. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Nouvelle **Vague**

Album: 3
Label: Peacefrog/Justin Time
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

FRENCH GROUP NOUVELLE Vague has done a fantastic job at re-imagining popular tunes as (mostly) Bossa Nova standards. They've always employed a rotating cast of smooth singing females, and while they do that again here, they've also brought in some of the original vocalists to tackle their redone tunes (ie. Depeche Mode's Martin Gore on his song, Master and Servant.) Their latest shies away from Bossa Nova, and goes more straight up pop, but it's still as lovely and pleasant as their other work.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Beach **House**

Album: Teen Dream
Label: Sub Pop/Outside
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

EVER SINCE BALTIMORE'S Beach House landed on Pitchfork's list of the top albums of 2006, the duo's popularity has been on the rise, culminating with a Sub Pop release this year. The band's third disc, Teen Dream, is exactly that — an ethereal, hazy listen that feels like a relaxing daydream. Like past discs, it's filled with atmospheric layers of guitar, keys and lush vocals courtesy of Victoria Legrand and Alex Scally.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Gunning takes dark turn

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

It took Ben Gunning a while, but he did at last release what could be his Moby Dick.

The "do it" in question is Mal De Mer, the sophomore release of the Toronto indie-rocker's solo career after making a name for himself so many moons ago alongside Montreal cult faves Local Rabbits (an incarnation with longtime friend Peter Elkas that in its day was as notorious as Thrush Hermit, The Rheostatics and The Inbreds).

The followup to Beigy Blur, Mal De Mer takes a darker turn with a nautical narrative. With a voice ranging from falsetto to baritone, percussion machine and lounge-lizard guitar licks, Gunning recounts the fictional tale of a disgruntled cruise ship employee. The narrator grows more and more disillusioned as he ruminates about the world around him and the boat gets further away from shore.

"I don't want people to think I'm completely pessimistic,'" says Gunning. "He's becoming increasing less interested in the job. The final two songs of my last album, I was trying to put some really dense ideas into a pop format and it was becoming really challenging trying to say a lot and narrowing the scope to fit. So instead of trying to cram it in, I decided to spread it out over one record."

A carefully crafted piece of work, Mal De Mer took Gunning over four years to produce and release. Put the time gap down to working a day job to support a family and the logistics of aggregating helping hands to learn and record the complex score. Gunning himself admits he's not prolific and adds that anything worth doing is worth taking the time to do right.

"I think the whole myth of the artist who doesn't have to work a day job is disappearing," he says. "Almost everyone I know, the artists who I admire in Canada, are working other jobs. It's not unique."

Though don't get them wrong, due to the care they put into it, the moonlighter's music can often be just as enjoyable, if not better, than the signed big-name rocker who "bangs out 10 songs every three years or so," as Raine Maida once told Metro.

"There's a certain idea of delegitimacy that some people have if you work a day job," he said. "And I think that could be changing in independent circles. People ask me 'oh, is this a hobby?' but I like to look at this as something I'm so serious about that I don't want to subject it to having to make bad decisions about music because I have to pay the rent."

JENNY HIGH PHOTO

Mal De Mer is the sophomore release from Toronto indie-rocker Ben Gunning.

"I think the whole myth of the artist who doesn't have to work a day job is disappearing. Almost everyone I know, the artists who I admire in Canada, are working other jobs."
Ben Gunning

In Concert

- Ben Gunning plays the Rivoli tomorrow in support of new album Mal De Mer.

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Out with the old, in with the new

Less than a week after his NBC and Tonight Show finale, Conan O'Brien is back to work on a new show for the Peacock Network. The network has picked up the pilot for Justice, a legal show created by Conan's production company, Conaco. **POPEATER.COM**

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Money woes from the grave

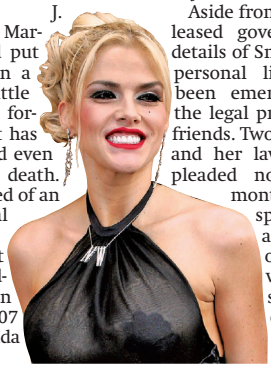
CELEB DEATH Newly released government files offer a glimpse into the money troubles that plagued model and reality star Anna Nicole Smith at the height of her notoriety, ranging from millions in missing jewels to unpaid utility bills. The Department of Justice files that detail her 1996 bankruptcy filing also note her lack of understanding of her financial woes.

"Assets noted in her file include a Russian lynx coat appraised at $43,343.75 US and a necklace with a 500-carat sapphire."

"She did not know why she was in bankruptcy," an unidentified examiner wrote in a 1996 report that was part of the government file obtained by The Associated Press under a Freedom of Information Act request.

Assets noted in her file include a Russian lynx coat appraised at $43,343.75 US and a necklace with a 500-carat sapphire, but also six potbellied pigs and a $12,000 doll collection. A safety deposit box at a New York bank held nearly $1 million in jewellery, but also a bottle of her perfume and a copy of her calendar. And while filings list $154,142 in income from modeling and royalties in 1994 and $274,514 the next year, left unpaid were taxes in numerous jurisdictions and even a gas bill for $265.63.

Smith's bankruptcy filing came after the 1995 death of her billionaire husband J. Howard Marshall and put in motion a court battle over his fortune that has continued even after her death. Smith died of an accidental overdose of at least nine medications in Feb. 2007 at a Florida hotel.



Also detailed in the files is Smith's apparent loss of some $2.7 million in jewellery, including two pieces valued at nearly a half-million dollars apiece: a ring with three diamonds, including one weighing 8.45 carats, and a platinum necklace with 226 diamonds totalling nearly 74 carats. The whereabouts of both were never determined, nor is it known if they were stolen.

In the bankruptcy examiner's report, the writer often expresses exasperation with Smith, saying she appears drugged during the interview and takes additional pills in the course of the meeting at her home.

"She could barely walk, her speech was slurred, she had to lay down in a darkened room as the light bothered her and she could not remember what she said from one moment to the next," the examiner reported.

Ron Rale, Smith's personal attorney during her life and the executor of her estate, didn't return a message seeking comment after business hours Tuesday.

Aside from the newly released government files, details of Smith's troubled personal life have also been emerging through the legal problems of her friends. Two of her doctors and her lawyer-boyfriend pleaded not guilty last month to drug conspiracy charges accusing them of illegally providing her sedatives and opiates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

Joseph Gordon-Levitt, at 28, is a Sundance Film Festival veteran.

He loves to act

Joseph Gordon-Levitt charmed Sundance Film Festival fans a year ago with the romance (500) Days of Summer.

Now the 3rd Rock from the Sun star is assailing Sundance crowds with a wild man role in Hesher, the tale of a heavy-metal anarchist who bursts into the lives of a grieving boy and his family.

A flurry of films that passed through Sundance — the teen dramas Manic, Mysterious Skin and Brick — helped former child star Gordon-Levitt graduate into adult roles and showed he was more than just that alien kid in human form on his sitcom.

"My favourite kinds of actors are the chameleons, like Daniel Day-Lewis or Peter Sellers."

Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt

In the title role of Hesher, Gordon-Levitt bears little resemblance to the clean-cut young romantic of (500) Days of Summer, which earned him a Golden Globe nomination. His Hesher has long, stringy hair, tattoos everywhere and a mad-dog demeanour that shouts, 'Mess with this guy at your own peril.'

"I just love to act. It's my favourite thing to do in the world, and what keeps it interesting to me is the creative challenge. So different kinds of characters, that's what I just love to do," Gordon-Levitt, 28, said in an interview.

"My favourite kinds of actors are the chameleons, like Daniel Day-Lewis or Peter Sellers, people like that. To me, the highest compliment you can pay to an actor is, 'Man, I didn't recognize you.' So yeah, Hesher is really different from Tom in (500) Days of Summer, and you know, that's what keeps it spicy for me."

Gordon-Levitt has been mixing up his work in independent films with big Hollywood pictures, among them last summer's action tale G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra and next summer's Inception, a science-fiction thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio and directed by Christopher Nolan (The Dark Knight).

Hesher director Spencer Susser said Gordon-Levitt is a chameleon himself, remaking his persona to fit each role. "When I met Joe, I thought he was just a great guy. I thought, I want to see your Hesher, and we got into a room, we started to play with it, and I was blown away, because he turned into a different person," Susser said. "I know Joe now, but I know Hesher, too, and they're different people."

Violent, profane and unpredictable, Gordon-Levitt's Hesher insinuates himself into the life of a boy (Devin Brochu) who's mourning the death of his mother in a car wreck. Moving in with the boy, his catatonic father (Rainn Wilson) and doting grandmother (Piper Laurie), Hesher becomes an unlikely agent of healing for the family.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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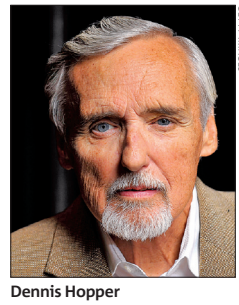
SECOND CUP

Hopper's wife is seeking custody of their daughter

LEGAL Dennis Hopper's wife states in a court declaration that she believes the actor is divorcing her because of his declining health and influence from others.

Victoria Hopper wrote that her husband's medical and mental state have become unpredictable as he battles prostate cancer, according to the documents filed Monday in Los Angeles Superior Court.

The 42-year-old is seeking full custody of the couple's six-year-old daughter.



GETTY IMAGES

Dennis Hopper

She is also asking a judge to allow Dennis Hopper supervised visits with his daughter for up to an hour per day, depending on his health. Her filing seeks strict guidelines, including a requirement that Hopper remove all guns from the family's house and refrain from smoking medicinal marijuana before the visits.

"I do not believe that petitioner is capable of taking care of himself or his legal and financial affairs," Victoria Hopper's declaration said.

"Therefore, I do not believe Petitioner is capable of making sound decisions in the best interests of our daughter."

He was first diagnosed with prostate cancer a decade ago, but it returned late last year. He started chemotherapy treatments earlier this month, the filing stated.

Victoria Hopper is asking a judge to protect her and her daughter's stake in a $1 million life insurance policy and a college fund.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Making music-making history
The all-star Hope for Haiti Now album has debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, making it the first digital-only album to hit the top spot. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A silent stage speaks volumes

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

Telling stories without using words has advantages if the subject matter is explosive.

AKHE, a physical theatre troupe from Saint Petersburg, Russia, wordlessly discusses the death of nations and cultures in its latest production, The White Cabin.

Fresh from a hugely successful British tour, this three-person troupe uses stage acrobatics and multimedia to produce a harrowing show about fear and soul searching.

The White Cabin runs this weekend at Toronto's The Theatre Centre.

"We did not expect such a positive reception outside Russia," says AKHE cofounder Maxim Isaev, by phone from Vancouver. "The audience creates the story in its mind. Viewers must engage. Here they cannot just sit back and be told what to think."

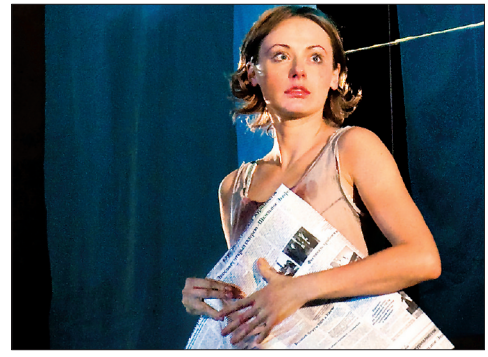
This production has a darkly exotic atmosphere, dimly lit with screens projecting photos. Performers in scary clown garb bounce around and react to each other with highly refined athletics and stage acting. This approach may sound like mimes let loose in a Beckett play, but it's actually a well-established stage genre, called Russian Engineering Theatre.

In RET, space, light and sound are assembled by operators (the actors) to create a machine that produces meaning. This method gives the performers a chance to tackle ticklish subject matter, like immigration and how you think it affects your country.

"We are not inventing this discussion. It's already in full force," says Isaev. "There is immigration and there is apathy. There is fear of cultures being diluted by immigration, and fears of people in host nations not caring enough to confront the diluting influence of immigrants. This is ironic."

Much racist thought is ironically self-contradictory, like the idea that Jewish people are both bankers and socialists, or how Canadians are both peace-lovers and hockey enforcers. These are lazy minded, fear-based concepts that will eventually smash into each other if you take them to their natural conclusions. Exploring these ironic fears with conventional language and plots can be dangerous, though, because the context may be misconstrued, or fumbled by the performer.

"The production is not only dark," says Isaev. "There is comedy and tenderness as well. The mind puts lightness into situations."


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A performer on stage in The White Cabin

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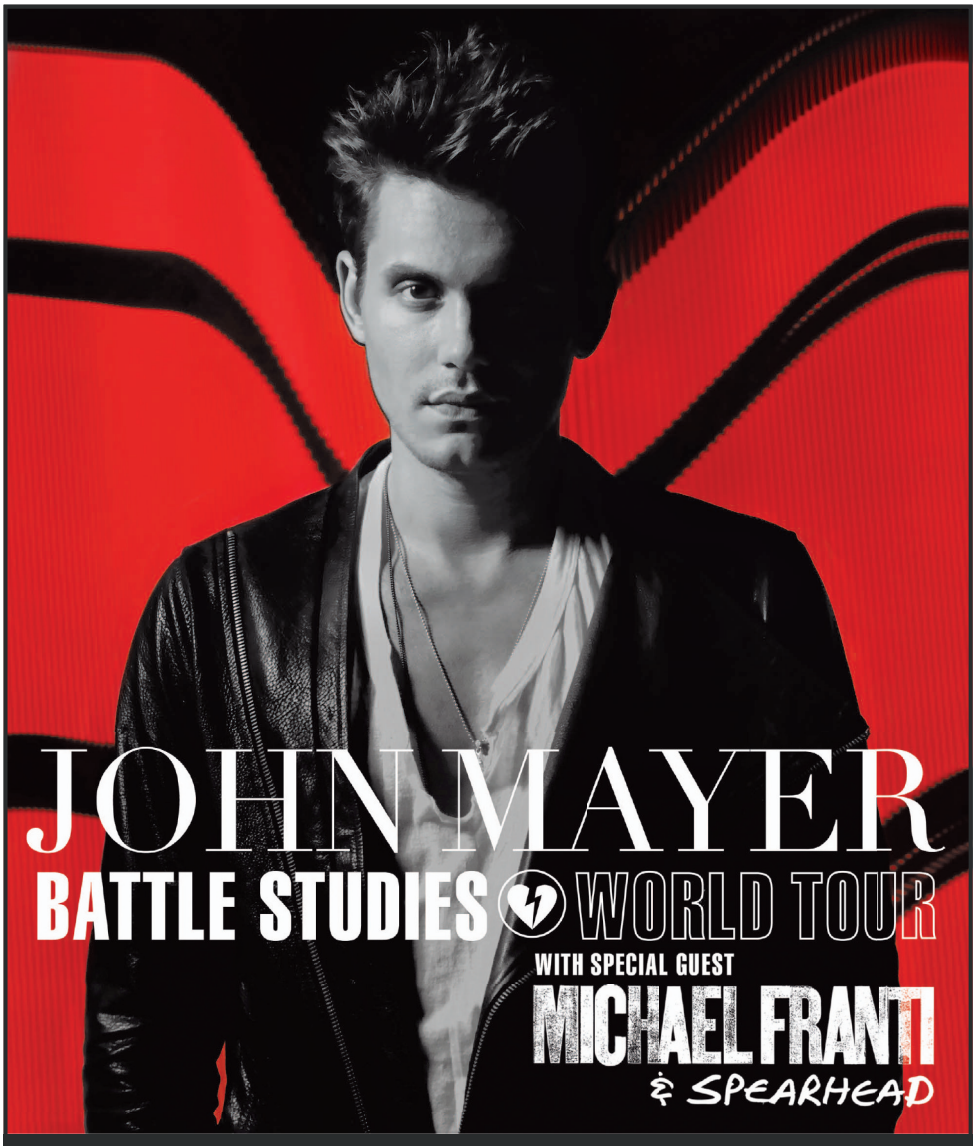

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ur Music ROGERS

Douglas' son pleads guilty to cocaine rap
The son of actor Michael Douglas has pleaded guilty to trafficking large quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine. Cameron Douglas entered the plea yesterday in Manhattan federal court. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Winter City beats seasonal blahs

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

Toronto's Winter City Festival is squarely placed between Winter's grueling Christmas and nervier Valentine's Day.

Now in it's seventh year, this festival allows people have fun without all the traditional holiday pressures. And it follows an ancient tradition of citywide celebration.

"It's a festival of festivals," explains Julian Sleath, Programming Manager for Toronto's Special Events Department. "We were looking at ancient celebrations in Rome and Athens, with themes of fire and feasting and procession. We're bringing all those themes together at Nathan Philips Square, with input from nations all over the world. Every weekend there's something completely different.

"We're really lucky to be able to program like that," he adds.

At Nathan Philips Square, highlight events include The Flaming Lotus Girls assembling Angel of the Apocalypse, a Burning Man-style installation with fire dancers. Comagnie les Passagers' Time is… uses a 30 by 50 foot vertical stage, using pulleys and levers and chords, and all original music to feature kind of sideways Chinese Kung fu choreography. Comagnie les Passagers also presents the Bollywood-style staged spectacle, Namastey, a love story about an Indian woman in London.

"It's a completely multicultural approach, and effortlessly so," says Sleath. "Just looking at the range of restaurants alone in the Winterlicous Festival: 150 places to eat! They brilliantly reflect the huge diversity of traditions in Toronto at the moment. We program in part to match and celebrate that difference, but our city's diversity also tends to represent itself admirably."

The Wintercity Festival also balances family activities with great date destinations and free events.

"There's so many things in it would be crazy for me to suggest any one thing" says Sleath. "My kids love what The Bunch do. They're part of the Warm Up Festival, and it's nice to see young people rocking out."

Three in one

- The Winter City Festival is three festivals in one. The Warm Up Festival is a set of indoor cultural events, ranging from NFB screenings to animation workshops. The WOW! Festival is the set of spectacular outdoor events being held at Nathan Philips Square.
- The Winterlicious Festival is all about food, featuring 10 culinary events being held in some of Toronto's best-loved restaurants, including cook offs, chocolate and beer celebrations.

FILE PHOTO
The Flaming Lotus Girls will perform in Nathan Philips Square.

PHOTO BY NIKKI CHARLETON

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Worthington in talks for Dracula role

Sam Worthington is in talks to bring Dracula back from the dead. The Aussie hunk is the frontrunner to land the lead in Alex Proyas' Dracula Year Zero. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Fiona eyes Grammy R&B win

Five years ago, Melanie Fiona flew to Los Angeles, determined to make her musical dreams come true.

The Toronto native had the right sound — great range and a distinctive voice, equally adept at expressing vulnerability and strength — and the right look.

All she needed to do was change everything.

"I met a lot of labels, executives and producers," Fiona told The Canadian Press.

"They'd say: 'We love the way she looks, we love the way she sings.' But I knew that the minute I worked with them or would have signed with them, they would have tried to change me into someone else completely different.

"That was something that I didn't want to do."

As it turns out, her stubbornness paid off.

The past year has brought the 26-year-old the sort of chart success and industry respect she was willing to wait for, culminating in a nomination at Sunday's 52nd Grammy Awards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Canadian Melanie Fiona is up for the best female R&B performance for her song, It Kills Me.

She's up for best female R&B vocal performance for her heart-rending torch song, It Kills Me.

The Grammy nod was vindication, to say the least.

"It's like the best news I've ever received," Fiona says, her voice cracking with enthusiasm."

"Oh my gosh, I instantly had flashbacks of just singing as a little girl into my hairbrush in front of the mirror. I went directly there. Could I even have imagined singing around my house and loving to sing would have me in this position now, one day?

"It's just unbelievable."

It certainly would've seemed that way at many points during the past few years, as time tested Fiona's resolve.

Fiona was born Melanie Hallim, the daughter of Guyanese immigrants.

She had been active in the industry since 2002, when she was briefly involved with Toronto R&B girl group X-Quisite (she left before their first album was released, though she earned songwriting credits).

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Catch the Grammy Awards this Sunday

Benefit

- Mary J. Blige and Andrea Bocelli will perform Simon and Garfunkel's Bridge Over Troubled Water during a fundraising segment for Haiti relief at this year's Grammy Awards.

Kids For TV

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- as well as teens and young adults - are invited to tryout for special evening or weekend TV Studio workshops in TV Acting, Movies & Modelling.

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J-Lo. targets Harris in comedy

TV Jennifer Lopez will play a self-help expert on an episode of the CBS comedy How I Met Your Mother in March.

The actress-singer portrays Anita Appleby, a no-nonsense author who tries to "train" men into better behaviour in relationships. Her target is Neil Patrick Harris' playboy-bachelor character, Barney. Appleby makes it her mission to break him.

Cage mansion sells for $5M

FINANCES A real estate broker says a Las Vegas mansion that belonged to Nicolas Cage before it was foreclosed on sold for nearly $5 million US its first day on the market. Records show Cage owes millions of dollars to the IRS in unpaid taxes.

Lowman says the sale was expected to close yesterday.

The Oscar-winning actor has said he's had to sell numerous assets because of his finances. Cage sued his former business manager in October for $20 million, saying the man's advice led him toward ruin.

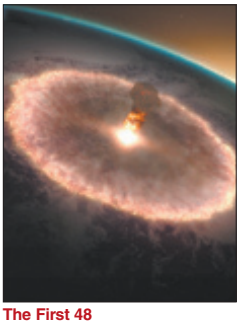
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/28/10	265	353	2	TVO	Super Structures (N)		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		The Street (Part 4 of 6) (N)		Masterworks: The Romantics		Agenda-Paikin
	211	331	3	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		The Office	The Office	90210 "Unmasked"		News Hour
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Office	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere V	Omni News:	Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Nature of Things (N)		CannaBiz (HDTV) (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: Special Victims		Community	Parks-Recreat	30 Rock	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	The Vampire Diaries (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (HDTV)		CTV News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Beetlejuice* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton.				*Lethal Weapon 3* ★★★ (1992, Action) Mel Gibson, Joe Pesci.				News at 11 (N)
	-	-	14	-	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King/Queens	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	George Lopez	The Insider (N)	Stargate SG-1		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		The Insider	Hitchcock Pres	Becker
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Live for the Moment (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n		The Mentalist (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	Community	Parks-Recreat	The Office	30 Rock	The Jay Leno Show (N)		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	The Deep End (N)		Grey's Anatomy (HDTV)		(10:01) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi: Next	TMZ (N)	FlashForward		Fringe (HDTV PA) (N)		(10:01) Private Practice		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		Fringe (HDTV PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	PBS NewsHour	My Hero	Doc Martin		Andre Rieu Live in Dresden: Wedding at the Opera				Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	The Vampire Diaries (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Law & Order: Special Victims		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	The Office
	298	653	332	TLA	The Tyra Show (N)		According/Jim	Family Guy	KTLA News	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Vampire
news	502	390	26	NW	Connect Today's biggest stories. (N)				CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	Kudlow Report (Live)		Planet of the Apps: Hand-held		MacHEADS		Biography on CNBC (N)		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	OHL Hockey Sudbury Wolves at Barrie Colts. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	NHL Hockey Ottawa Senators at Pittsburgh Penguins. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58	OLN	Ghost Hunters		Destination Truth		Operate-Repo	Operate-Repo	Ghost Hunters International		Destin. Truth
	417	406	81	SC	Pass Time	NASCAR Hub	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Pinks Outtakes	Jacked!	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pass Time
family	551	542	25	YTV	iCarly	Fries That?	Malcolm-Mid.	Hates Chris	8 Simple Rules	What I Like	Family Biz	To Be Indie	Prank Patrol
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	Majority Rules	6TEEN	Futurama	King of the Hill	*Bram Stoker's Dracula* (1992, Horror)		
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny Chance	Suite Life	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School	Cory in House	That's-Raven
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Supernanny		Dine With Me	Love It-List It	Confidential	Confidential	Divine Design	This House	Love It-List It
	570	580	29	MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	My Date With...	disBAND	Video on Trial	Muchmusic Countdown			MuchOnDem
	615	520	31	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV) (N)		Manhunters: Fugitive Task		Manhunters
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L'Insegnante Va al Mare con Tutta la Classe				George Lopez	George Lopez	Lopez Tonight
	571	581	36	MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		Storytellers Jay-Z.		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	mmtop10.ca
	575	583	38	CMT	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Reba	Reba	According/Jim	According-Jim	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	UnStable (N)
	616	521	39	SHO	Relic Hunter		*Ogre* (2008, Fantasy) John Schneider, Ryan Kennedy.				Cra$h & Burn		Law Order
	620	523	40	BVO	Storytellers	PhotoXplorers	Innovators	Writers	*Wilby Wonderful* ★★ (2004, Comedy-Drama) (DVS)				Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	Rich Poor	Rich Poor	X-Weighted "Chris"		Last 10	Last 10	Re-Vamped		ET Canada
	522	506	43	HIS	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Ancient Discoveries		Ancestors	Ancestors	Nostradamus Effect		Blow Down
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Name Is Earl	The Simpsons	South Park	Demetri Martin	Demetri Martin	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan	Real Renos (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes Ins.
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: Special Victims		*The Haunting* ★ (1999, Horror)		
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Monica: Still	Monica: Still	*Doing Hard Time* (2004, Crime Drama) Boris Kodjoe.				Mo'Nique
	627	528	50	SPC	Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Lost "Follow the Leader"		Caprica "Pilot" Lifelike avatar.				InnerSpace (N)
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Cribs	Buried	Life of Ryan	Taking the Stage		Taking, Stage
	618	524	54	TROP	Reality	Whatever	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	King	Comeback
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Chuck-Day Off	Restaurant Makeover		Extreme Cuisine, Jeff Corwin		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		On the Buses	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Cuba* ★★★ (1979, Adventure) Sean Connery, Brooke Adams.				
	621	527	63	STR	Look-A-Like	TMZ	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		The View (HDTV) (N)		The Dr. Oz Show (N)		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Backyardigans	Night Garden	Waybuloo	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Babar	Zigby Hiccups.	Max & Ruby
	526	507	249	VIVA	Cold Case "Superstar"		Missing		The Closer "LA Woman"		Cold Case "Superstar"		Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301	M1	(7:10) *Icarus* (2010, Action) Dolph Lundgren.				*Camille* (2007, Adventure) Sienna Miller.			Tracey Ullman	Cures
	305	612	306	PIX	(6:50) *Arizona* ★★★ (1940, Western) Jean Arthur.				*The Game* ★★★ (1997, Suspense) Michael Douglas.				(11:15) *Dirty*
	520	146	-	DISC	Daily Planet (N)		Journey to the Edge of the Universe				MythBusters		Daily Planet
	637	-	-	TVLND	Red Green	Red Green	Fantasy Island		Hart to Hart		Andy Griffith	Phil Silvers	Bizarre
	605	-	-	FASH	Britain's Next Top Model		FashionTele	RAW	Canada's Next Top Model		Britain's Next Top Model		Australia's

critics'corner

Journey to the Edge of the Universe

From the title, it sounds like a sci-fi movie, but this two-hour special is more science than fiction. Thousands of images, most of them taken by the Hubble telescope, are the basis for vivid computer re-creations of astronomical phenomena all the way back to the Big Bang. If this doesn't make your eyes pop, consult an ophthalomologist immediately. 8 PM on DIS



The First 48

In Texas' Harris County, Sgt. Roger Wedgeworth investigates the murder of a homeless man found stabbed to death near an interstate highway. In Louisville, Ky., Detective Scott Russ heads to a housing project, where he must overcome the community's strong "no snitching" policy as he investigates the murder of a young man who was the prime suspect in a double homicide case in the new episode "Lost Highway/Out for Murda." 9 PM on A&E

The Italian connection

Masellis Supermarket (906 Danforth Ave.) is one of those old school markets that has been around forever. It's jam-packed with sweet finds — in-store cured capicolla and prosciutto, homemade sausages, interesting pasta and cheeses. Call 416-465-7901. STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

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It's been here for 11 years. It must be good.

Cozy and warm, despite the casualness, the space allows diners the watch passersby out the glass front. The menu is straightforward — a few appetizers, pizza, pasta and your typical mains — chicken, salmon, lamb, etc.

The Arugula and Grilled Asparagus Salad ($9.95) is splendid — sweet roasted red peppers and grilled artichoke hearts tangle amongst a mountain of peppery, lightly dressed arugula. The Grilled Calamari ($12.95) erupts with fresh Mediterranean flavours — oven-cured tomatoes, kalamata relish and red peppers.

The pizzas, though, are disappointing. The thin crust is crunchy, greasy and surprisingly heavy. Cooked to well-done, it is hard to get at any of the flavours (broccoli, eggplant, pesto), except roasted garlic in my Smoked Chicken Pizza ($13.95) — which comes in loud and clear.

The Woodland Mushroom Pizza ($12.95) is better suited to the dough's density, but the crust remains its biggest downfall.

And the service isn't any better — treated disdainfully by our server throughout our meal, our guy peppers my food without asking and we can't get water to save our life.

We are clearly an imposition. The city is teaming with restaurants.

We'll go where we are wanted.

On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

STEPHANIE DICKISON/FOR METRO TORONTO

Smoked Chicken Pizza ($13.95)

Dish for Olympic-sized appetites

Hockey brings to mind two things — frozen lakes and big, hungry players. This hearty fish dish is unfussy, full of flavour and sure to satisfy Olympic-size appetites.

PAN-FRIED CATFISH WITH SMOKY POTATOES

INGREDIENTS:
500 g (1 lb) baby red potatoes, quartered
125 ml (1/2 cup) water
30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
30 ml (2 tbsp) butter
5 ml (1 tsp) smoked paprika
2 small yellow onions, thinly sliced
1 green bell pepper, cored and sliced
Salt and ground black pepper
30 ml (2 tbsp) peanut oil
4 catfish fillets (about 650 g/1 1/3 lb)

METHOD:
1. Cook potatoes for 10 to 15 minutes. Add ingredients. Saute until onions and potatoes are tender. Set aside. Sear each catfish fillet for 2 minutes per side. Serve over a bed of potatoes.

SERVES 4

THE CANADIAN PRESS

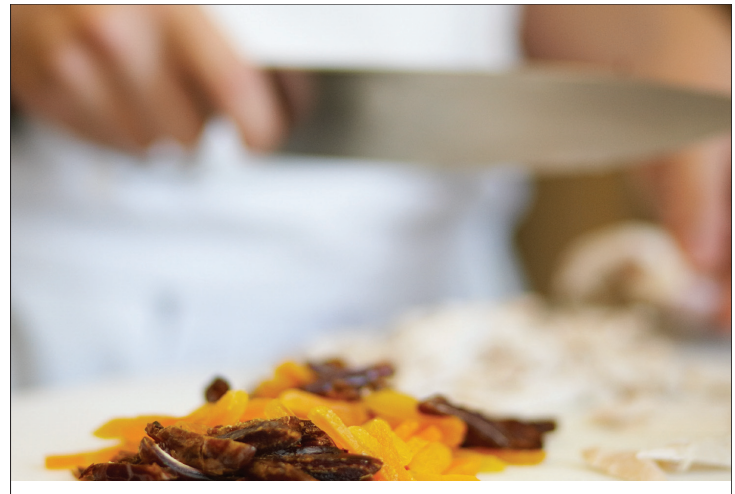
Dining out

FILL 'ER UP
There's nothing more filling than a honkin' burrito. Lucky for you, Big Fat Burrito just opened a second location in the Annex (529 Bloor St. W.) where you can get Breakfast, Yam or Pulled Pork versions. Nearby (362 Bloor St. W. on Walmer) the Burrito Bandidos serve up Halibut, Shrimp and Mixed (such as Steak/Chicken).

WORTH THE WAIT
It takes a minimum of 30 minutes for the family of Cambalache Restuarante de Tapas (505 Mt. Pleasant Rd.) to make you their famous Paella, but it is well, well worth it. Suitable for two people, the massive dish comes in a number of variations. Call 416-916-3930 or go to cambalache.ca

In brief

CHOCO LOVE With Valentine's Day approaching, you should consider getting something a little nicer this year than a box of chocolates from the drugstore. The Nutty Chocolatier (2179 Queen St. E.) in the Beach has it all — handmade truffles made from 100 per cent finest Callebaut chocolate from Belgium to delightful treats from the U.K. Call 416-698-5548 or visit thenuttychocolatier.com



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Whether you want to sharpen your passion or embark on an adventure, our new continuing education certificate programs are designed to satisfy your appetite. These unique programs have been customized for industry professionals and dedicated foodies who want to stay ahead of the curve, learn new skills, or master upcoming trends.

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- Professional Barista
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A wee lassie or a wee laddie?
James McAvoy is set to become a father for the first time with his actress wife Anne-Marie Duff, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Scottish star, 30, met Duff in 2003 while they starred in hit British TV show Shameless together. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

OMAR EPPS has very specific needs, **JAMIE KENNEDY** doesn't want dogs in the restaurant, **SANDRA BERNHARD** doesn't want you to worry about her tennis game, and **STEPHEN FRY** is full of mixed emotions.

@omarepps Craving a good ole candied apple... #random

@jamiekennedy Why do they allow dog bowls in restaurants so the dog can eat with u???? i dont have candlelit dinners in rovers doghouse

@SandraBernhard i played a very hard game of tennis last night and lost i feel a little bruised today but i'll be fine in doubles.

@stephenfry Oh gracious. I'm in a big emotional puddle. Simultaneously as happy as can be but also oddly disposed to burst into tears. I'm an old silly

METRO WORLD NEWS

GETTY IMAGES

Passing the torch

SO NO ONE WILL NOTICE HIS RECEDING HAIRLINE Jude Law is thanking his lucky stars for Robert Pattinson, since he and other young stars are starting to get all the attention.

"I feel great relief because finally others are entering the limelight," Law tells OK! Magazine.

"Men like Robert Pattinson must now play the Adonis. For me it was always a restraint, a restriction.

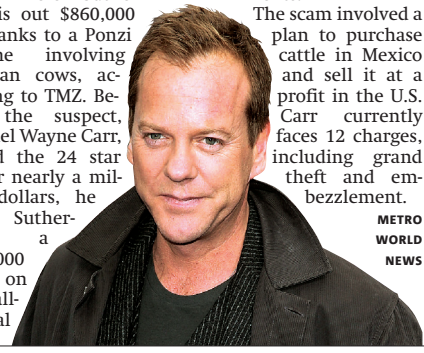
"My goal was always to be recognized as a good actor, but no one was interested in that simply because society just wants to warm toward your appearance.

"This is the great blemish of society."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Cash cow wrangler

HE'LL BE WAITING TIL THE COWS COME HOME. YEAH, I SAID IT Kiefer Sutherland is out $860,000 US thanks to a Ponzi scheme involving Mexican cows, according to TMZ. Before the suspect, Michael Wayne Carr, ripped the 24 star off for nearly a million dollars, he made Sutherland a $130,000 profit on a smaller deal to gain his confidence, according to court documents.



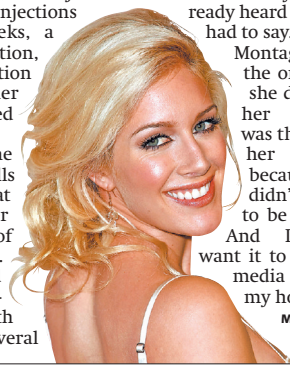
The scam involved a plan to purchase cattle in Mexico and sell it at a profit in the U.S. Carr currently faces 12 charges, including grand theft and embezzlement.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Mom, I love you

BUT YOU'RE HIDEOUS. HERE'S SOME BOTOX The gift that keeps on giving? Heidi Montag — who came under fire for undergoing 10 plastic surgery operations in one day — says not only was her mother supportive of her drastic operation, but she plans on giving her a "mommy makeover" for Mother's Day, usmagazine.com reports.

Reports surfaced that Montag's mother, Darlene Egelhoff, was furious at her daughter for secretly going under the knife. Montag, 23, had breast implants, a brow lift, botox in her forehead, a nose job revision, fat injections in her cheeks, a chin reduction, neck liposuction and had her ears pinned back.



But The Hills star tells Nightline that her mother was aware of her plan. "I've had this conversation with her several times. So I think she knew," she says. "I already heard what she had to say."

Montag says the only thing she didn't tell her mother was the date of her surgery because "I didn't want it to be a circus. And I didn't want it to be crazy media outside my house."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

K-Fed fed the pain

HIT ME, BABY, ONE MORE TIME ... WITH A BUCKET OF DELICIOUS KFC AND A CAN OF COKE For Kevin Federline, the very public struggles came with a private pain, as his 2006 divorce from Britney Spears triggered depression and overeating, people.com reports.

"Once you get depressed, you don't really feel like doing anything," Federline, 31, tells Access Hollywood. "You're kind of discouraged about yourself and then the weight gain too, or that makes me more depressed ... I mean, it's a combination of all of those things."

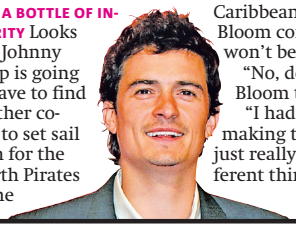
The difference for Federline was that his troubles played out on a public stage.

"Everybody knows what happened with me and Brit," he says. "I'm not going to say that's the total cause of it but, I mean, just not being happy with myself was probably the main part of my depression."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Singing Yo No No

AND A BOTTLE OF INTEGRITY Looks like Johnny Depp is going to have to find another co-star to set sail with for the fourth Pirates of the Caribbean film, as Orlando Bloom confirms that he won't be onboard.



"No, definitely not," Bloom tells MTV News. "I had a great time making those movies. I just really want to do different things."

METRO WORLD NEWS

This is what happens when you live together in sin

IT GETS ALL CONFUSING. MARRIAGE HAS A MUCH BETTER TRACK RECORD. YOU SHOULD TRY THAT The rumours about Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie breaking up are all because of a little misunderstanding, at least according to one source, who tells Gatecrasher that the power couple did in fact visit a Los Angeles attorney early this month, but not to dissolve their partnership.

Instead, Pitt and Jolie were working to sort out their shared $330 million fortune. "They aren't married, so they need to protect their children and property in case there's a rift in the future," the source says.

"People hear legal papers, and assume it means a divorce. "They're just making sure their ducks are in a row."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Take Five

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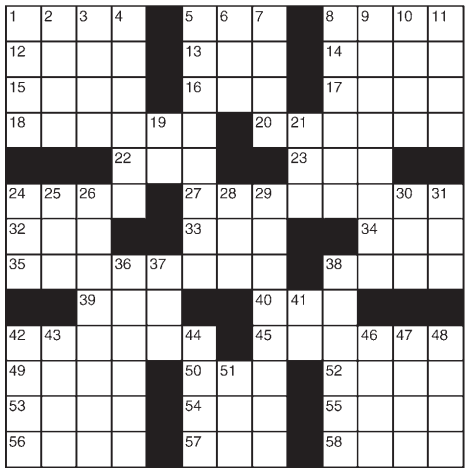

ACROSS

1 Santa's paperwork
5 Scenery chewer
8 Ostriches' relatives
12 Bloodhound's clue
13 Prima donna's problem
14 Year-end celebration
15 12-Across detector
16 Part of UCLA
17 Sicilian spouter
18 Classroom spinners
20 Low bow
22 Inventor Whitney
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38 "Do — others ..."
39 Latin 101 word
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42 Some calisthenics
45 King who abdicated
49 Wife of Osiris
50 "— the fields we go"
52 Bellow
53 Arctic sheet
54 Larry's pal
55 Opposed
56 Be inclined (to)
57 Conclusion
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3 Mediocre
4 Man with all the answers?
5 Finland's capital
6 Way back when
7 Rolling stone's lack
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11 Line of fashion?
19 Urban transport, maybe
21 Literary collection
24 Discordance
25 John's Yoko
26 Summons
28 Tic-tac-toe win
29 Toyed (with)
30 Scrap
31 Ultramodernist
36 Entertained
37 Upper surface
38 Open, as a gift
41 Freudian concept
42 Winnow
43 Gilligan's home
44 A handful
46 Blue-ribbon
47 Assess
48 Plumbing problem
51 A billion years

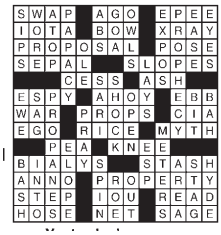
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	7	3				6		
			4	9				8
2					6			4
		6	9		2		1	
	8			6			9	
	2		3		1	5		
5			2					6
8				1	7			
		7				3	2	

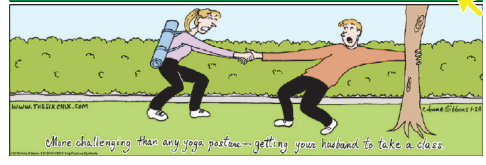
PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



2	3	1	6	5	7	4	8	9
9	5	4	8	1	3	7	6	2
8	7	6	2	4	9	5	1	3
3	6	7	4	9	1	8	2	5
1	4	2	5	6	8	9	3	7
5	8	9	7	3	2	1	4	6
6	9	5	3	8	4	2	7	1
7	1	8	9	2	6	3	5	4
4	2	3	1	7	5	6	9	8

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day

Fast Jambalaya

Submitted byITammy Laforet, Windsor, Ont.

INGREDIENTS:
2 cheddar smokey sausages (can substitute with a dozen shrimp)
5 strips fried bacon (optional)
1 large ripe diced tomato
1/2 cup onion
2 tbsp minced garlic
1/4 diced pepper
1/2 cup of any other veggies (broccoli, carrots, spinach)
1 cup Uncle Ben's parmesan or garlic rice
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp butter for taste

METHOD:
1. Cut tomatoes, onions, sausages, peppers and other veggetables into bite-sized pieces.
2. Saute all veggies in olive oil until they are medium soft.
3. Add garlic and sausages. (if using Shrimp, add later on)
4. When the suasages are cooked, add water required as per Uncle Ben's rice and bring to light boil.
5. Add rice stir and cover. Cook for 10-15 min per Uncle Ben's rice instructions, stirring occasionally. (Add Shrimp at this time.)
6. Chop up bacon pieces and add.
7. Serve when most liquid is absorbed. Leave some as a sauce to give the dish more taste.

SERVES 2-4
PREP TIME: 10 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 20 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You seem to have got the wrong end of the stick where an affair of the heart is concerned and now you are beating yourself with it for being so stupid.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
It is not enough that you know what you can do, you must make sure that other people know it too. Put on a show today. You were born to be a star.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You want to know the truth, even if the truth is not to your liking. That's good because it would appear that someone is keeping something from you.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Take an hour or two out of today's busy schedule to make a note of all the things you have to be thankful for. It may take a while to acknowledge them all.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
The more people you have to deal with today the more emotional you will become and the more likely it is you will get annoyed with some of them.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If you rush into something today you may have to rush out again a few days hence when you realize you have got it totally wrong.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may find it difficult to confide in people today, perhaps because you don't know what you want.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
This may be a time of new beginnings but you don't have to start something new. Save the new stuff for later.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
You can be happy or you can be sad — it is entirely up to you. It's more likely to be the former over the next 24 hours if you make an effort to be sociable.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will go from delight to despair and back again today. To say that your feelings are a bit unsteady is not saying nearly enough.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You may not get along with the people you meet today but if you are smart you will pay attention to what they say.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
No matter how quick off the mark you think you may be there will always be those whose reactions are quicker.

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